

JPRS 79273

22 October 1981

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2419



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

22 October 1981

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2419

CONTENTS

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

- Abu Iyyad Discusses U.S. Policy, Other Issues
(Salah Khalaf Interview; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 17 Aug 81)..... 1

PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS

- Further Gulf Cooperation Council Unity Discussed
(Najib 'Abd-al-Hadi; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 16 Aug 81)..... 19

EGYPT

- Publication of New Magazine Hailed, Criticized
(Fathi Ghanim; ROSE AL-YUSIF, 13 Jul 81)..... 21

ISRAEL

Briefs

- Ban on Foreign Currency Dealing 24
Dispossessing Negev Arabs 24
West Bank Student Enrollment 24
Halhul Facing Budget Crisis 24
Negev Arabs Oppose Airfield 25

MOROCCO

- Governmental Changes Reviewed
(AL-DUSTUR, 10 Aug 81)..... 26

OMAN

- Agreement With PRC Emphasizes Health, Cultural Interchange
('UMAN, 17 Aug 81)..... 29

SAUDI ARABIA

Programs To Combat Teen-Age Delinquency Discussed ('Abdallah al-Babitin; AL-YAMAMAH, 14 Aug 81).....	30
--	----

TUNISIA

Interview With Taieb Baccouche (Taieb Baccouche Interview; AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 16 Aug 81).....	40
---	----

Role of Opposition Examined (Rashid Khashanah; AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 16 Aug 81)..	46
---	----

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Pros, Cons of Establishing Local Stock Exchange Discussed ('Ali Lashin; AL-BAYAN, 15-17 Aug 81).....	49
--	----

Central Bank Issues Figures for Expected Oil Revenues (AL-BAYAN, 14 Aug 81).....	62
---	----

Regional Marine Studies Center, Local Fisheries Projects Cited (Walid al-'Aridah; AL-BAYAN, 1 Sep 81).....	63
---	----

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

ABU IYYAD DISCUSSES U.S. POLICY, OTHER ISSUES

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Aug 81 pp 15, 18

[Interview with Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyyad), Member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement; in Beirut; "Abu Iyyad Tells AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 'There Is Nothing New in the U.S. Position; the Objective Is To Liquidate Our Revolution' "]

[Text] Israel is behind the attempt to assassinate Abu Dawud while he was on a mission for the revolution. The Palestinian Revolution may not be defeated. The Syrian front is open to us; the obstacles are still in place as far as the Jordanian front is concerned. If we held sway over liberated land, we would have set up 1,000 Soviet bases. The Arabs are holding back on the matter of supplying us with arms; we asked everybody for ammunition.

Mr Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyyad), member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement held Israeli intelligence, the Mosad, responsible for the attempt to assassinate a member of the movement's Revolutionary Council, Abu Dawud, in Warsaw last week. He called for the restrengthening of relations between the state of Kuwait and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and he described these relations as abnormal.

The senior Palestinian official said that under the current balances of the struggle on the international scene, the Palestine Liberation Organization was prepared to sign a treaty with the Soviet Union. He said that had there been liberated Palestinian territory, the Soviets would have been allowed to establish bases on those territories. Abu Iyyad warned against the new U.S. plot "which seeks to liquidate Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization or to bring them into the settlement framework."

This was stated in the following important interview that AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM conducted with Abu Iyyad in Beirut.

The Attempt To Assassinate Abu Dawud

[Question] The attempt to assassinate Abu Dawud in Warsaw was the second

attempt on his life. It was accompanied by many statements and rumors which were relayed by news agencies and which indicated that Palestinian parties were involved in these operations. How true are these reports?

[Answer] There have been attempts to distort the truth about the attempt on the life of Brother Abu Dawud in Warsaw. This is not the first time for this fighter to be the target of an assassination attempt. However, we are not in the habit of announcing the numerous aborted attempts against our people.

I have reason to believe, in fact, I am confident that it is Israel that is behind this operation because I do not believe that an Arab or a Palestinian can carry out an assassination attempt against such a fighter who has an honorable history. Abu Dawud has been working with me since 1967. Whenever he was assigned a task, he completed it in the best way regardless of the nature of these tasks. He is definitely an honest fighter.

As far as our information is concerned, we have a lead on this crime which can possibly produce the details [that would lead us to] the criminal. So far, all the evidence [we have] points to the fact that Israeli intelligence, the Moussade, is the real perpetrator. By the way, the Moussade is widely spread in Warsaw, where its support and its instigation of anti-socialist elements is playing an active part in the sabotage operations that are being perpetrated against the socialist regime in Poland. And here we note that a few agencies tried to refer to the fact that Abu Dawud had led an uprising within the movement in 1972. I believe that these references do not deserve a response; they are rather silly. At no time ever has this fighter been against his movement, the Fatah Movement, or against the revolution to which he belongs. However, as one of the fighters he can have his own private opinions and ideas, for we have become accustomed to the practice of democracy in our domestic life in the movement. Even the attempt to promote [the rumor] that Abu Dawud had relations with splinter groups or with groups that had split with the movement has no basis of truth. We hope that he will recover from this blow, especially since it was not a simple one, and that he will speak about some of the facts which he knows for certain about the perpetrator and about the attempt to which he was subjected.

The Restoration of Esteem

[Question] It has been noted that the Palestinian leadership, specifically Abu 'Ammar, has been bent on restoring to Abu Dawud his esteem, since there were some past clouds....

[Answer] To be quite honest Abu Dawud did not stop working more than 6 months. After that he continued to work with me. I used to assign him to missions that were in the interests of the revolution and in the interests of the movement. To be specific I assigned him to the last trip during which the attempt on his life occurred. And here let me affirm that Abu Dawud was charged with an honorable mission. What hurt me was not only the

fact that he was the target of an attempted assassination, but that he completed his mission with considerable success. The mission had nothing to do with the countries which he visited; it had to do with our struggle against Israel.

Our Blood Is Not Cheap

[Question] The attempt to assassinate Abu Dawud was not the first such attempt. More than one Palestinian staff person lost his life to the bullets of assassins. What is the revolution's response?

[Answer] Regardless of the methods of terror used by Israel against our people, it is my opinion that the response to them should be made inside the occupied territory so that public opinion in Europe and in the world would know that the makeup of this state is terrorist and Fascist. Our position on this point does not diminish the importance of the revolution's staff or allow their blood to be shed with impunity; rather, as I said on more than one occasion our blood is not cheap. This is on the Israeli side. On the Arab side, we are tired of talking. The fact that we do not respond here in the same style is neither weakness nor an inability [to act]. We have in fact the ability to lay a trap for more than one Israeli or Zionist figure in any country. However, so far we prefer making our response inside the occupied homeland, and this exposes Israel to world public opinion further. I also do not believe that the decision not to respond will continue indefinitely. The Resistance will most certainly be compelled to use the same method against those who carry out these assassinations regardless of their identity. The fact that we are biding our time in responding is the result of our desire to let world public opinion know the extent of our patience in the face of the attempts against the lives of our people and our fighters abroad.

The New U.S. Plot

[Question] The United States has recently proposed a two-part plan for a solution to the Middle East [problem]. The first part talks about Camp David and its development. The part about Lebanon has a direct bearing on the Palestinian Resistance. In that part the United States proposed ideas about expanding the area in which the emergency forces in the south are deployed, strengthening the position of the Lebanese government and, most seriously, preventing the arming of the Palestinian Resistance. What is your comment on this plan?

[Answer] We were not notified of any conditions with regard to the cease fire. The party that talked with us directly about this subject was the United Nations Organization, and specifically Waldheim himself through his representative in Lebanon, Gen James Callahan. More than 24 hours have passed since Abu 'Ammar's meeting with Callahan took place during which a meeting of the joint command was held and a decision was made to comply with the UN appeal.

I want to emphasize once again that we were not notified of any conditions

by any agency. Not the United Nations or any Arab or non-Arab country notified us directly or indirectly about any conditions.

This is as far as the cease fire question is concerned. I am glad that we referred to it because it is being rumored that Israel is linking the cease fire to three conditions: expanding the territory in which the UN emergency troops are deployed; strengthening the Lebanese government and the Lebanese army; and preventing the arming of the Resistance. We have nothing to do with these conditions which Israel imposed on the U.S. administration or on the agencies that called for the cease fire.

I believe that as far as the emergency troops are concerned, we have made their work and their task easier despite the fact that we did not recognize the decision that was made. I believe you will recall that when the emergency troops first came into [Lebanon], their arrival coincided with some events, and some people opposed [their presence] on the scene. But we used all our influence to set the stage for these troops so they can do their work and so that the Lebanese people and the Lebanese government would not feel that we were the reason for Israel's invading or overrunning the south. But we did so without impeding our work in accordance with the articles of the Cairo Agreement. This was recorded in the minutes of a UN meeting. We said that we would not relinquish the bases where we had been allowed to operate, and it was according to that basis that we accepted the presence of these troops.

What is being expected of these troops now? I do not want to anticipate events in the position [that will be assumed] on the UN forces or on other [matters] before we know the magnitude of the new factors [on the scene]. If these factors affect and impede the agreements and if they keep us from protecting our people, we and the National Movement in the south will assume a negative and a rejectionist position, and we will resist. But if these new factors do not conflict with these agreements and with our presence with our people in the camps, our position will most certainly be different.

On our part we think that any new mission for the emergency troops should turn toward liberating the occupied part of Lebanon's territory and not turn backward [and expand the area of deployment]. This is with regard to the first condition.

The Lebanese Government

As far as strengthening the Lebanese government is concerned, we have never objected to that. We wonder, however, is the Lebanese government lacking in funds and weapons?

We think that strengthening the Lebanese government will only be accomplished by achieving the intra-Lebanese accord and by having the government assume a clear position on those who deal with Israel. Never in my life have I seen a government that does not recognize Israel and says it is

part of the Arab League and part of Arab nationalism and [at the same time] pampers those who deal with Israel so that if one of them were to make a statement that is vaguely against dealing with Israel, many people would praise it. Why is the future of the accord left in the hands of one party? Why doesn't the Lebanese state, together with the national and non-national parties, undertake serious efforts toward [establishing] the accord? Why isn't the accord within the reach of all the parties, from the National Movement to the Broad Front, to Sulayman Franjiyyah and to all the forces and groups that are outside the National Movement such as the Amal Movement? Why are they trying to show the struggle and the question in terms of a struggle between Christians and Muslims?

The events have proven that this is not true and that the principal conflict now is that between those who are dealing with Israel and all the Lebanese. What is called for is an accord between the Lebanese government and the parties that have a conflict with those who deal with Israel so that those who deal with Israel can be fought if they continue dealing with Israel.

It is such a position that would strengthen and reinforce the government. Funds will not strengthen the government; nor will the army with its present makeup strengthen it. As the National Movement says the army cannot be suitable for any security mission.

A Silly Condition

The third condition is in itself silly. I cannot understand how the U.S. administration can supply Israel daily and annually with all kinds of weapons which Israel uses to destroy our Lebanese and our Palestinian people and then ask a nation, a movement, a revolution or an organization not to arm itself in self-defense. I do not know what standard is being applied in this logic. Therefore I say that this is a silly condition and [does not deserve] a reply. Quite the contrary, we are arming ourselves, and we are strengthening our sectors even further in the foremost fortifications--we and the Lebanese Movement and all the Arab revolutionaries in the Palestinian Revolution. These conditions are unilateral and we are not bound by them.

The Saudi Role

[Question] There has been talk that Saudi Arabia played a political role in bringing about the cease fire. It became evident during recent months that relations between the liberation organization and Saudi Arabia were not bad. Through these relations, do you expect the cease fire decision to have a bearing on the new U.S. position on the Palestinian question, especially since some people are referring to the recent war as the war of recognizing the PLO?

[Answer] There is one war in history in which an agreement was reached beforehand. It is the October war. To be fair we must mention that the agreement over what is called peace came from the Egyptian side, not the

Syrian side. This peace was in our view and in the view of all the Arabs high treason in the course of which the blood of the Egyptian people and the blood of the Egyptian army was utilized so that al-Sadat could set himself on the course which he later pursued.

I am a historic witness in this matter. Al-Sadat himself told me that the war would be limited to 10 days. Al-Sadat cannot pre-determine the duration of a war unless he has an agreement over that with Washington. I had a discussion with him about that question, but he denied this and tried to exonerate himself.

Now, if there had been an agreement over our recent war, it may be said that it was a war for [gaining] recognition or mutual recognition. But the fact of the matter is that we were exposed to aggression, and we opposed that aggression in a manner that was a credit to every Arab.

It is true that Saudi Arabia put pressure on the U.S. administration to effect a cease fire, but there was no discussion about recognition either with Saudi Arabia or with any other country. There was something ludicrous as far as the whole world was concerned. When Israel agreed to the cease fire, it tried to portray it as a cease fire agreement with the Lebanese government because it refuses even to articulate the name of the liberation organization, and this [stance] was mocked all over the world.

It was normal for Saudi Arabia or for another country engaged in the process of putting pressure to effect the cease fire to have discussions with the U.S. administration, even if these discussions were by telephone, and it was normal to mention the name of the liberation organization even though the U.S. administration does not actually recognize the PLO.

In all honesty there is nothing new in the U.S. position: there was nothing new before the war or after the war. The evidence for this is clear, and [one can discern it] by following al-Sadat's visit to Washington and the dialogue that took place between him and U.S. officials about the liberation organization, even though it is dishonorable for any Palestinian or Arab to have al-Sadat speak on his behalf. But the nature of this dialogue affirmed that there was nothing new in the U.S. position on the Palestinian question and on the liberation organization.

War and Political Gains

[Question] We have been accustomed on the Arab scene to the fact that a conspiracy follows every war, and it is feared that there might be a new Kissinger-style conspiracy intimating recognition to sow conflict within the Palestinian scene, to deal a blow to Syrian-Palestinian relations and to create confusion again so that the U.S. administration can reshuffle the cards in accordance with its interests.

[Answer] This is curious in our Arab nation. There are people who like to analyze and belittle any victory. On this basis we notice that after

every victory [we have had], a campaign which states that something abnormal is behind this victory is launched.

Ultimately, however, despite the rumors that are going around and the fanciful ideas and analyses that have emerged, man is his own master, and he makes his own decisions.

In my opinion what happened in south Lebanon is a victory for the joint forces. It was a victory for all the Arabs because a small group with limited equipment confronted this Israeli war and stood fast against it until a cease fire decision was reached. This led to the creation of an uproar in world public opinion and in the European press against the fact that the PLO was being ignored. Are we being asked to denounce this European protest? And when a hostile newspaper like LE FIGARO calls for recognizing the PLO, are we being asked to say no, do not recognize us?

This would be unreasonable because this is a political gain, and every war must be followed by political gains. Is there a loss if a state recognizes us? Is there a crime in this? We are not against the United States recognizing us, and if such recognition were a crime, then why do all the Arab countries and the revolutionary regimes exchange embassies with the United States?

There is most certainly a difference between what I am saying and proceeding with a U.S.-European plan through what is called the European initiative for the sake of what is called recognition.

The Crime of Taking Up Arms

Therefore, I am saying that we must not cast doubts on this victory. But with regard to the other part, the true actual position is that the liberation organization is being written off as far as Israel and the United States are concerned because those people consider us criminals because we took up arms as Palestinians or rather because the Arabs took up arms with us. They fear that this experience may become widespread, especially since the Lebanese National Movement took up arms in sympathy with the Palestinian Resistance. In addition, many Arabs inside the Palestinian Revolution and in the National Movement took up arms with the Palestinian Revolution.

I recall that in a meeting with an Arab official we discussed with him the decision on universal conscription, and he told us, "Go ahead! Take all the Palestinians in our country. We will give each one of them two bombs and a rifle on the condition that they do not return to our country." This means that with some Arabs taking up arms is a crime.

Quite frankly I am saying that it is a major crime not to utilize every military battle politically.

Our Revolution Is Incompatible with Regionalism

[Question] Don't you believe that this victory which was achieved by the joint forces may lead to the strengthening of Palestinian regionalism because some people may think that the revolution can liberate Palestine by itself?

[Answer] If such thinking were to develop, it would be superficial. If we were confident when we launched our revolution of our ability to liberate our country by ourselves, we would not have hesitated for one moment in embarking upon the decisive battle of liberation regardless of the high price we may pay.

In this battle any person is allowed to be regional, but the Palestinian is not. This is because we are convinced that the Palestinian alone without his Arab nation cannot liberate one inch [of land]. And here you find reference to the fact that the reason for all our struggles with the Arab regimes has been our faith that our strikes and our revolutionary action inside the occupied territory, through the sacrifices of the guerilla who for a long time has not been the lonely Palestinian, are capable of creating a revolutionary climate even in the countries that are remote from the circle of front-line confrontation.

And here I say that guerillas from all the Arab countries--from Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab Maghreb--are fighting in the ranks of the revolution.

Therefore, we in the revolutionary command are always saying "Revolutionaries are in the Palestinian Revolution" and not "the Palestinian revolutionaries." Time has actually established that identification with the Palestinian Revolution is an identification with the struggle and not at all with the region. The mere statement that the Palestinian Revolution is for Palestinians means that we are not thinking of a serious liberation.

It is no coincidence that we do extend a [helping] hand to all Arab liberation movements despite the fact that we cooperate with many regimes for considerations that have to do with recognizing the organization as an official entity for the Palestinian people. We consider ourselves part of the Arab and universal liberation movement, and this is something we are not ashamed of because we realize quite well that our cause cannot be solved by us and the Arab world only in isolation of world support.

Treaties and Bases for the Soviets

I am telling you quite frankly that under the current balances of the struggle in the area and in the world, if we had the capability of signing treaties with the Soviet Union, we would have signed 1,000 treaties. If we had land on which we could grant the Soviets bases, we would have given them 1,000 bases because we are facing an enemy that is greater than Israel. Our enemy is the United States with whom more than half the Arab regimes go along through relations that depend on depleting the Arab economy. For this reason we are saying that the revolution would not be

victorious without the Arabs and without an ally and a friend with the stature of the Soviet Union.

The War of the Joint Forces

[Question] Why then did you call this war the Palestinian-Israeli war when you know that this may provoke some people even in the ranks of the Lebanese National Movement which fought alongside the revolution in the context of the joint forces?

[Answer] I want to say something in relation to this matter. As a matter of form the National Movement cannot address the Arab governments or the United Nations. From a purely tactical standpoint the president of the PLO, Brother Abu 'Ammar, cannot address the United Nations, the Arab League or any Arab or international official on behalf of the joint forces. Therefore, he is compelled to address these agencies on behalf of the Palestinian forces, the forces of the liberation organization. And here I affirm that we did not issue a single statement in which we said that we as Palestinians had fought alone. All our statements and our addresses emphasize that we fought as joint forces. In fact, we used to mention the Amal Movement because its young people took part with us in the battles.

The War Revealed the Plan

[Question] With your permission let us go back to the U.S. position. In your judgment is this position the product of the battles, or is it the product of Habib's shuttle trips in the area?

[Answer] So that we do not lose sight of [what happened], let us say that Philip Habib's mission in the area began with the missiles crisis between Syria and Israel. The war broke out while he was traveling in the area. This war expedited the disclosure of the plan; but it did not create a plan.

In my opinion the United States has begun thinking seriously of the Lebanese problem. It is no coincidence that Bashir al-Jumayyil was summoned to the United States. Nor were Habib's travels a coincidence [either]. Today there was news that Habib would return to the area soon on a specific mission related to Lebanon.

In my reply to a previous question I talked about the substance of the U.S. plan which is based on blocking the arming of the Resistance, strengthening the Lebanese government and expanding the area in which the UN emergency troops are deployed. This is in addition to the Israeli statements that were made by the new government and that indicate that there would be a new round [in the future].

The Next Round

This affirms that the United States is inclined to liquidate the liberation organization. The U.S. administration would put its Arab friends in a

corner and ask them to persuade the organization to accept the Israeli conditions for a cease fire. Herein lies the contradiction between the Arab position that is cooperating with the United States and the position of the liberation organization. Israel would thus justify its aggression, and the United States' Arab friends cannot put pressure on the United States again to effect a cease fire.

In my judgment this is the objective of the U.S. plan. The Americans know that whatever Israel was not able to take away from us as a liberation organization and as joint forces in the war, it will not be able to take peacefully and amicably.

Therefore, there will be a round in the future and it will be coming up very soon. This is not a prediction. The strike will be much more cruel. The United States has armed itself with this new position, and Habib will bring it to the area. So far this position has not been presented to us, but I am confident it will be. The Americans know in advance that we will turn it down outright, but their purpose is to give Israel and the friends of the United States in the area a position and a justification.

Syria and the Organization

It is for this reason that I am saying that the integrated plan has been in existence through Philip Habib even before the war because the United States is giving Syria and the PLO only two options: join the settlement or [risk] liquidation. Syria is in Lebanon just as the liberation organization is.

Thus this plan and its choices can be imagined through the Lebanese crisis in which both Syria and the liberation organization are two concerned parties. It is my opinion that this must be the focus of our principal thoughts in the next stage.

The Nature of the Next Round

[Question] You spoke about a round that was to take place soon and that was to be violent. What is the magnitude of this round, and what are its fields?

[Answer] Everything is to be expected. Last 20 July THE HERALD TRIBUNE published a statement by the director of Israeli intelligence in which he stated, "We were determined to strike Lebanese civilians who were harboring Palestinian leaders. We will continue these operations against civilians until they rise up against the Palestinians and throw them out."

Therefore, if we were to look at the implications of these words, we can very well imagine that everything is possible including the possibility of overrunning the south, [launching] a war of annihilation, carrying out special operations of a limited nature, bombing cities and carrying out assassination operations. These operations began with the attempt to assassinate Brother Abu Dawud, and they will reach every person in the Palestinian Revolution the Mosad can reach.

U.S. Decisions

[Question] But the United States is saying that it supports wiping out the seats of tension in the Middle East at the present stage of the process of developing Camp David. This means that there are no possibilities for a military strike until after a new U.S. round, does it not?

[Answer] Any analysis that does not direct its attention to the organic relationship between Israel and the United States is not a logical analysis. There is always a margin of exceptions for Israel which is called the right to security. And Israel makes a decision on that whenever it wishes to do so. Believe me, this includes bombing the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the Syrian missiles crisis and the recent strike: all these are U.S. decisions.

I believe that Habib's arrival in the next round will be effected under the cover of solving the Lebanese crisis. Reagan is saying for the first time that the Lebanese crisis must be brought to an end.

How would the Lebanese crisis be brought to an end?

Reagan intends to bring it to an end according to the U.S. style and the Israeli style. This would be based on crushing the Palestinian Revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and all the Lebanese national forces. The solution would come after that. I am certain that the Americans will propose the solution through Syria first; the pressure will be placed on Syria first and then finally on us.

With regard to the scope of the strikes, we expect them to be commensurate with the U.S. resolution: total extermination, annihilation and a total invasion as I said.

The Challenge for the Arabs

[Question] Early in the cease fire few officials in the leadership of the liberation organization said that aircraft flying even on reconnaissance sorties was considered a violation of the cease fire agreement. However, the flights have not stopped. What are the methods of confronting this daily violation?

[Answer] This is a challenge that has been placed in front of the Arabs. As a revolution our capabilities to react are limited. We wish we had all the weapons to confront the Israeli air force, including SAM-6, 7, 9 and 11 missiles or rather all kinds of missiles.

But these missiles, whether they are Soviet or American, are owned by Arabs who make the decision to purchase them, to bring them and to give them to the Resistance. If we had a single missile and an Israeli airplane were to go out on a flight, we would fire our missile on that airplane. But we do have anti-aircraft weapons, and we use them; but they can do no more than create interference for the aircrafts and [thereby] prevent them from

striking [their targets] with precision. I assure you that not a single Israeli airplane has flown over Beirut or the south without being opposed by us with those weapons that we have at our disposal.

Therefore, I am saying this challenge is a challenge for the Arabs. This is the cause of the Arabs, all the Arabs.

In this regard discussion about the Arabs causes us considerable pain because no Arab country, without exception, can provide Lebanon and the Palestinian Revolution with weapons that resist all airplanes. Therefore, the Arabs must feel humiliated because the Israeli air force has free access to Arab Lebanon's air space on a daily basis.

We Requested Weapons from Everyone

[Question] A short time ago you said that if we had land we would give the Soviets bases on this land. Why don't the Soviets give you these missiles? Did you make such a request to the Opposition and Defiance Front and specifically to Syria and Libya?

[Answer] To say that we did not ask would be misleading because it is well-known that we asked all the Arab countries for military aid. As far as we are concerned, weapons have no color. We take any weapon that comes to us from anywhere. We asked everybody, but every Arab country has its own circumstances.

And why should we turn to the Soviet Union when the Arabs have all the weapons that could protect Lebanon from any airplane and could at least prevent the contentiousness over Lebanon?

In this regard all the Arabs are saying that they have their own conditions, some of which are foreign and others have to do with the Lebanese government.

This is regarding the missiles; but with regard to other kinds of weapons, the truth is that the three countries that you mentioned, the Soviet Union, Syria and Libya, are helping us. To be specific, they are giving us missiles and guns.

The Need for Heavy Weapons

[Question] Israel is saying that part of its attacks was to prevent progress in arming the Resistance and to prevent Libyan, Syrian, Saudi and Soviet weapons from reaching it. The question that is being raised now is this: Does the Resistance actually need this kind of weapons? Does this mean that the Resistance has begun to shift from its reliance on manpower to reliance on weapons machinery?

[Answer] With regard to a people's war I will always remember a statement that Gen Giap told us when we visited Vietnam in 1970 with a large Palestinian delegation that was headed by Brother Abu 'Ammar. Before we

met Gen Giap we went on a tour during which we saw SAM-6, 3, 2 and 5 missiles as well as anti-aircraft artillery. We [also] saw large tanks in the training camps. At the same time we saw small commando units. That is, we saw all the ingredients of a classical war and the weapons of an ordinary war. There were firing groups around the SAM-6 missiles, [armed] even with Kalashnikov guns, and all of them would fire when raided by airplanes.

When we met with Giap, we told him that all our thoughts were on the fact that the Vietnamese were fighting the United States with manpower only. And he said, "There is no war of the people in which you can distinguish between classical weapons and the weapons of a people's war. I don't see any contradiction."

This means that if we had Arab forces around the occupied land, any Israeli raid or heavy Israeli shelling would be returned by Arab artillery and by the Arab air force while the guerillas by comparison would fight with their rifles and their bodies. But as a result of the absence of an Arab response we were forced to own these weapons so we can use them to return the fire. The fact that we own these weapons has made all Israel scream in the recent war. What will be Israel's position if there were an Arab response from the air and from heavy artillery? Let others answer that question.

Not Everything That Is Known Is Being Said

[Question] Some people are saying why are the Lebanese people alone enduring all this pressure while there are possibilities for using other Arab fronts? Hafiz al-Asad has announced more than once, "The Golan is open to you." It is known that the dense presence of Palestinians in Jordan provides the possibility for action from this front.

[Answer] Not everything that is known is being said, and this is not being done to cover the position of any party whatsoever. I am saying that Syria allowed us to carry out operations from the Golan. It was up to us to choose the kind, the timing and the scope of the operation without going into the details because the details are our secrets.

As for the Jordanian front, we will carry out our activities [there] when we will have the opportunity to do so. Unfortunately, many of our patrols are arrested by the Jordanian army, and our fighters are put in Jordanian prisons. Nevertheless, on many occasions we do infiltrate and we strike despite all the obstacles that are placed in front of our revolutionaries. Once again, unfortunately, these obstacles protect Israel whether the Jordanian leaders wish this or not.

The question that the Arabs must ask is this: Why are we not allowed to take action from the Jordanian front?

[Question] It is being said that during Jalud's visit to Jordan, Libya asked that the Resistance be allowed to operate from Jordan, [is that true]?

[Answer] Yes, but King Husayn refused and said that Jordan was not adequately armed to confront the Israeli reaction.

The Bottleneck and Other Choices

[Question] The presence of the Resistance in Lebanon only means that the Resistance is in a bottleneck, and the U.S. plan that we talked about seems serious and imminent, [is it not]?

[Answer] There is a matter that I always like to emphasize. This is that we have choices that we do not mention all at once, but there is a principal and a general choice we do recall. We as a revolution are not allowed to be defeated. This is our general choice. The other choices come after that, and they will remain there.

I am saying that Israel and the United States and their allies are greatly mistaken if they think that one or more strikes or an invasion can terminate this revolution because our revolution is enduring, and it has many choices. If it is weakened on one front, it will enter another. We have the experience of Jordan. It is true that we were vanquished militarily in Jordan, but our Palestinian people and the Jordanian people were not and will not be vanquished. The [United States and Israel] have a few agents who are close to them; they will come to power and go in the seasonal governments they have.

At any rate we have many choices as I said, and our only choice is that we may not let this revolution be defeated.

Decisions That Are Not Carried Out

[Question] Since you know this Arab fact, why did you call for a meeting of the Arab Defense Council?

[Answer] You asked a while ago whether or not we were asking the Arabs for weapons and positions. We know quite well that the requests we make at any Arab gathering will not be met, but we must put those requests on record for history. How can we incite the Arab nation against most of its rulers if we are not heard loudly and clearly by this nation? We request the meetings and we call for them so that decisions can be made. Even if these decisions are not carried out and they remain ink on paper, they at least record our positions and those of others for the Arab masses and for Arab posterity.

[Question] In one word, what were the results of the meetings of the Arab Defense Council?

[Answer] In my personal opinion, nothing. When the Arab ministers of defense and foreign affairs meet, their meeting signifies a foreign and a military policy is being outlined for implementation. But what has been implemented? Nothing. What weapons and munitions did the Resistance get as a result of these meetings? Also nothing.

And here we say that we approve of any Arab government trusted by the Lebanese government, such as Saudi Arabia or Kuwait, entering Lebanon and bringing in missiles, if the government fears the Syrian or the Libyan missiles.

[Question] Did you make suggestions to that effect?

[Answer] You can be quite certain that we asked everybody. We asked the Arab Defense Council, and decisions were made. But what matters is this: Was anything carried out? Nothing was carried out except for little ammunition from here and there that can add nothing qualitative to what we have.

The Munitions Problems

[Question] It's been said that the Revolution faced problems with munitions during the days of the battles. Have you taken specific measures for such a situation in the future, especially since you are talking about future rounds?

[Answer] It is true that we did suffer a shortage in some munitions during the days of the battles, but now there is absolutely no fear of this problem. We have made all kinds of weapons and ammunition available, and all the possible precautions are in place. However, most certainly our reserves are not like the reserves of the U.S. or Soviet army. We are a revolution; we are a revolution besieged even by the Arabs.

When we fight we know how to use and regulate our weapons. We take into consideration the fact that we may not be able to obtain replacement weapons and ammunition during the days of the battles. Therefore, we know how to act with the weapons we have.

The Sources of Weapons

[Question] Israel is saying that you are getting heavy weapons from Libya, and it has been noticed that your communications with Libya during and after the days of the battles were continuous.

[Answer] Allow me to speak on behalf of the Fatah Movement. After the first meeting that took place between the Libyan and the Fatah command, relations proceeded and developed well. I believe that an important factor in our ability to resist in the south was that of the weapons and the ammunition that came to us from al-Jamahiriyah.

It is true that some other Arabs are sending us weapons and ammunition, but they do so in small quantities. We did receive munitions from Saudi Arabia and from Algeria.

As for Syria, its position on the battle fronts is clear. Iraq sent us weapons before the battles [in accordance with deals we had made with it].

During the days of the battles, however, it seems that there were difficulties in the means of communication. Iraq even sent us some heavy weapons before the battles.

I am saying that it is not necessary to airlift weapons to us from this or the other country. We do not want to take the kinds of weapons that would affect the nature of arming the units of Arab armies. But when we get funds, we can purchase weapons from all the world markets. Weapons are available everywhere, and the weapons factories in the capitalist world in particular depend in their business on the seats of tension in the world.

Iraq and the Steadfastness Front

[Question] In the face of the military buildup on the Libyan borders, many Resistance leaders, including Abu 'Ammar, announced that the Resistance would stand alongside al-Jamahiriyah. Does this mean that you intend to send military units to defend al-Jamahiriyah?

[Answer] I do not believe that al-Jamahiriyah needs Palestinian military units to defend its territories. What is intended by support is the political position. What is intended is the cohesion between the Palestinian Revolution and the Opposition and Steadfastness Front. We hope that Iraq or any other Arab country, will join this front and become a principal party in it. Such cohesion would strengthen the conditions of the Arab nation. Division gives our enemies the capability for isolating any Arab country.

And how much did our enemies benefit from the Iranian-Iraqi dispute!

As far as we are concerned when Brother Col al-Qadhdhafi called for Arab solidarity after the Iraqi reactor was bombed, Brother Abu 'Ammar and I traveled [back and forth] across the ocean and the gulf to call upon the Arabs to rise above their differences. We have put up with the philosophies of some Arabs here on the scene, and we said we do not care about all the classifications as long as the basic question is in jeopardy. Therefore we contacted everybody, except for those who crossed the red line and did in fact betray the cause.

We have traveled more than once. If you were to ask whether these travels succeeded or failed, I would say they did not quite succeed except between Baghdad and Tripoli, between Aden and Baghdad and between Morocco and Libya.

But the principal accomplishment is the Iraqi-Syrian meeting; we are looking forward to it because of its great implications. In my opinion, this meeting will take place as soon as the Iraqi-Iranian war comes to an end.

Our fellow Iranians and Iraqis are supposed to understand that no one will achieve victory in this war of attrition. We have to stop it. I have been saying since the beginning of the war that we and the people of Iran and Iraq are the losers in this war.

The Arab Summit

[Question] Despite all these contradictions, is the Palestinian leadership still insisting on convening an Arab summit? What do you want from this summit?

[Answer] We have never been against the Arab summit or against any Arab meeting or consensus. Basically, common Arab action coincides with our aspirations as a revolution and as a liberation organization.

The confluence of the common Arab effort would strengthen our positions in our armed struggle against our enemy. This is in addition to what I said previously about the fact that such meetings and conferences will help us mobilize the forces of our masses against all the weak and wavering positions.

Most Arab summit conferences have ended in inter-Arab reconciliations at the expense of the conference programs themselves and accordingly at the expense of the resolutions for which we aspire. Due to this point specifically we are saying that there is no benefit from these conferences, but we have never given up on bringing the Arabs together. We have not given up on having a successful Arab summit, provided that the Arabs think once responsibly and earnestly of how to confront Israel with a unified position and approach.

We are not to come out with further separations on the Arab scene. I am saying here, unfortunately and bitterly that even the front that was now likely to become an examination center is suffering from paralysis. Let us ask quite frankly, why hasn't the Steadfastness and Opposition Front met during all these long periods during which new events have been occurring daily? Does not this mean that this alliance is also suffering from paralysis?

The Problems of the Steadfastness Front

[Question] According to your perceptions during your recent Arab tours were there specific reasons why the Steadfastness Front did not meet?

[Answer] Yes, there are reasons, but they are reasons that can be dealt with in minutes if we wanted to deal with them. But if we choose to harden our position, these problems will not be solved for years. I would like to add that if the reason for not holding meetings of the Opposition and Steadfastness Front is to preserve Arab solidarity, we see no conflict between convening a Steadfastness Summit and common Arab action. There is, for example, the Gulf Cooperation Council which meets continuously, and it has its agencies. But all the agencies of the Steadfastness Front are inactive and have not met.

Abnormal Relations

[Question] Abu Iyyad, we want a frank answer. Some tension previously

prevailed in relations between the liberation organization and Kuwait. What is the status of these relations now?

[Answer] The U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian plan that began the implementation phase following the Camp David accords tended to frighten the governments and the peoples of the Gulf from the presence of Palestinians in these countries. These scare tactics went in two directions. The first was that the Camp David accords did not solve the problems of Palestinians abroad and accordingly Palestinians will be forced to settle where they are in the Arab countries. This forced some governments in the Gulf to harass the Palestinians and to deny them entry visas.

The second trend was that of carrying out sabotage operations and implicating the Palestinians to stop their entry into Kuwait or into any other Gulf country. This created a state of hostility as a reaction to these rumors and to the U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian plans. These harassments reached an unreasonable level. Can you imagine that a Palestinian in the Gulf is not allowed to bring his newborn child if that child is born outside his place of residence or work? This is just an example and not an exhaustive list. In some Gulf countries the law is no longer being applied to Palestinians in the spirit of the law; it is rather applied according to the letter of the law, and this damages fraternal relations.

On our part we have tried everything we can to reassure the brothers in Kuwait and in the Gulf in general that we refuse settlement [in their countries], that we reject Camp David wholly and separately and that we are fighting against Camp David and against attempts to settle us.

But these efforts were not fruitful, and the confidence factor was shaken. Relations now require a re-evaluation because they are not normal. In my judgment Brother Abu Jihad's recent tour was one of our attempts to explain the position further and to settle these problems.

Salute to Public Opinion

For honesty's and history's sakes I am asking the Kuwaiti government and the Kuwaiti people to remember that when Kuwait experienced a few crises, it was the Palestinian who was prepared to take up arms side by side with the Kuwaitis to defend this part of the Arab homeland. I am also asking the Kuwaitis to remember that we have been accused of setting off more than one explosion and carrying out sabotage activity, such as the attack to which AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM was subjected, but the course of the investigation established that we were as far as we could be from such operations. The newspaper, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM explained this, and we are grateful to it for this posture.

As a revolution we have no interest or objective in blowing up a newspaper or a magazine. We are rather against this kind of terror regardless of the objectives and the justifications. I believe that you noticed when you came here that all newspapers are being sold in front of my office, including the separatist newspapers that specialize in insulting the Arabs and insulting our people and our revolution.

8592

CSO: 4304/165

FURTHER GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL UNITY DISCUSSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 234, 16 Aug 81 p 19

[Article by Najib 'Abd-al-Hadi: "Gulf Cooperation Council Establishes a Federal State With a Central Capital"]

[Text] Despite the complex political problems facing the Arab region at the present time, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] remains the primary focus of attention for senior officials in the Persian Gulf area. The area states wanted earnestly for the council to experience natural development. Now their wishes have been fulfilled and the GCC has come into being despite Arab reservations about the project.

The GCC's secretary general is moving forward with evident deliberation, and it would appear to be wise to hold back on the official announcement of the executive measures required to complete the setting up of the GCC's organizations. This is especially important since the proposed executive measures are being subjected to intense political scrutiny at the regional and pan-Arab levels. Moreover, the member states in the council realize the sensitive nature of their step and are aware of the repercussions it will have on the other Arab states--particularly those that have expressed reservations about the council on the pretext that the taking of such an important and innovative step will mean a return to a policy of Arab axes and blocs.

The GCC states recognize this and perhaps much more, besides. Therefore, they hastened to announce that the establishment of the council does not mean a return to a policy of axes and political blocs, declaring that they remained committed to the resolutions and agreements of the Arab League states. They stated that the purpose behind the establishment of the GCC was to organize housekeeping matters and deprive the two superpowers of the opportunity to interfere in area affairs, especially in light of Washington's announcement of the formation of the rapid deployment force for the purpose of protecting the Gulf region from the threats that surround it, according to the American view.

Apparently, the purpose behind the haste in establishing the GCC was to close the door to superpower interference in Gulf affairs. It is untrue that its timing was in any way linked with the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran as had been rumored.

AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned from widely informed Gulf sources that the executive measures will be announced soon and that one concept that has been brought up for discussion among the member states in the selection of a permanent capital for the council.

There are some who propose the establishment of a model city in the partitioned zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Some members also lean toward the establishment of a federal union among the council states patterned after the United States of America. The presidency of this federation would rotate among the countries in alphabetical order, with the president in each term invited to reside in the proposed capital during the length of his term. The proposed capital would be a political capital containing all the embassies, diplomatic organizations, and international offices of the United Nations.

At the domestic level, each state in the council would have local autonomy. The local administration would remain in existence while the elected representative assemblies would continue to carry out their duties. However, the idea of a federal representative assembly has begun to take shape according to which each state would have equal representation in the assembly. In other words, the population of the member states would not be the ruling criterion, with a state such as Qatar having the same number of members as Saudi Arabia and the rest of the states. Parliamentary powers would be granted to this body. These powers would extend to the enacting of federal laws and regulation as well as control over the course of the federation's general policy from the political and economic standpoints.

Perhaps among the most important issues which the leaders of the GCC member states will deal with will be those directly connected with the security affairs of the region. For this reason, it is not unlikely that the organizations arising out of the council will begin drafting a number of formulas to consolidate the basic military structures from the standpoints of armament, training, and equipment. Nor is it unlikely that the entire area will be linked by a highly advanced rocket system and powerful, high technology air and naval defense installations. It is believed that the states are seriously contemplating (and may have already begun implementing) the building of a huge naval fleet which would be capable of protecting the shores of the Gulf as well as filling the vacuum which Washington and other Western capitals have persistently invoked as a justification for intervening and protecting their interests from dangers they allege to exist.

Sources close to GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Basharah said that the secretary general will soon begin a series of visits to council states. They also said that he will soon start taking practical measures and making arrangements in preparation for the upcoming meeting of the heads of member states slated to convene in Riyadh before the end of the year.

8591
CSO: 4304/131

PUBLICATION OF NEW MAGAZINE HAILED, CRITICIZED

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2770, 13 Jul 81 pp 9, 10

[Article by Fathi Ghanim: "From My Private Notebook on Literature and Art: Important News of the Press: al-Azhar Publishes a New Magazine"]

[Text] Al-Azhar has taken a significant step in publishing the first issue of the weekly magazine, RISALAT AL-AZHAR. It is a magazine in the sense that it concerns itself with news, press reports and subjects and sections that are known in periodicals of the popular press. It has sections on the theater and the arts, subjects that have to do with women and children, fiction, health and sections on exploration, humor, science and cartoons.

Al-Azhar's entry into the field of journalism in this manner is a historic event. It is our duty to welcome it and to expect this to have far-reaching consequences on public opinion and on the activity of the press as well.

The statement by His Eminence the Great Imam Dr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Baysar, which was printed on the first pages of RISALAT AL-AZHAR, explains to us the purpose behind publishing this magazine. He is proclaiming that al-Azhar, "the powerful stronghold of Islam for more than 1,000 years," will oppose in this new magazine the false news and the misleading news that try to distort al-Azhar's role and seek to influence the hearts and minds of young people in particular.

Al-Azhar found that its monthly scientific magazine, which concerns itself with religious studies and research and which focuses its attention on Islamic thought, was not enough to confront the anxieties and the deviations in people's hearts that were being aroused by other contemporary factions. Al-Azhar thought that the matter had to be confronted promptly so that the correct answers and the proper solutions to the daily problems can be offered. Hence came the need to publish a weekly magazine that would ward off [the falsehoods] that were being raised around al-Azhar or Islam and to offer a quick remedy to the pressing needs of Muslims.

His Eminence the Great Imam described the magazine in words of special significance and importance when he said, "This magazine is to become a platform for all the believers. It speaks gently; works truthfully and listens to all problems with a kind heart and an open mind."

The magazine followed this style of speaking gently and listening with an open mind when it actually dealt with a discussion in more than one article of the relationship between Muslims and the followers of other divine religions including Jews and Christians.

The magazine published a report from Bonn, the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany about the dialogue that took place between the president of al-Azhar University, religious representatives and representatives of German and foreign cultural agencies in Bonn. It also published a report about the scientists' exchange program for Muslim and Christian scholars in the area of Islamic studies, and about expanding the horizons of human knowledge and understanding among the nations and making Islam known and understood in Europe.

On the subject of "good neighborliness in Islam" Mr Jabir Hamzah Farraj, the general manager of information in al-Azhar reminded us that the Prophetic Tradition mentions that the non-Muslim neighbor has rights with his Muslim neighbor. He reminded us of Aba Dajana al-Ansari who used to leave the mosque in a hurry as soon as he was through with his prayers at dawn so that he can protect the fruits of the palm that belonged to his Jewish neighbor. The branches of that palm spread over the courtyard of his home, and he used to fear that the wind would blow and the ripe dates would fall in his courtyard. His hungry children would then eat the dates when they had no right to do so.

The meaning [here] is clear. Islam is a religion of tolerance and fraternity. It protects the rights of those who subscribe to other religions. It protects and upholds those rights. A Muslim does not violate the rights of non-Muslim subjects even if the Muslim's children are hungry. At the same time al-Azhar realizes its world-wide responsibilities. It calls for cooperation and universal understanding with the Christian societies to serve human knowledge and to affirm understanding among nations.

However, the fact that I am welcoming all this does not prevent me from making an observation on the comment published by the magazine on a cartoon by Salah Jahin. The cartoon had appeared in AL-AHRAM last month under the title, "Events that Hurt National Unity." The cartoon showed Egypt saying that her children were "Unity, Harmony and Secularism" and that it rejected sectarian sedition as one of her children.

It is natural for RISALAT AL-AZHAR to reject the notion that secularism would be Egypt's daughter, and it is natural that al-Azhar's opinion would be that Islam, which is the religion of the state, was more merciful and more just to non-Muslims than secularism; that non-Muslim subjects have lived in contentment; and that both Muslims and Christians were being asked by their [respective] religions to look after each other. The recommendations of both religions ensure the continuity of mercy, tolerance and fraternity in Egypt and everywhere true Muslims and true Christians can be found.

All this is wonderful, and it is to be expected from a magazine published by al-Azhar. But what worried me was the fact that I found in that comment a violation of what His Eminence the Great Imam described as the magazine's style of speaking gently and kindly. Salah Jahin was attacked by insinuation and innuendo. There were statements such as "the one with well-known tendencies," or "motivated by well-known objectives," or "his obvious game." Then there was a final but not overt accusation, but it was off the cuff, that communism was behind all that.

The magazine has a right to attack communism, and it is its duty to oppose any atheistic appeal, but I do not believe that the method of using obscure words to attack people and then making a general off the cuff accusation is the method that the magazine outlined and accepted for itself.

I am saying this because I am concerned about this magazine's message, because I expect much good to come from it and because the need for it in our society is urgent. Since the magazine did announce that it would confront and oppose the problems and deviations, I expect it to set for us [an example] of high standards in the ethics of discussion and debate.

More than an abundance is being published about Islam today in the newspapers of the world. This places on all of us tremendous responsibilities to correct erroneous ideas and unsound notions [that linger]. I am quite confident that those who were guided by God to publish the new magazine, RISALAT AL-AZHAR will pursue the traditions of al-Azhar which they have upheld for more than 1,000 years in protecting, defending and spreading the religion. We welcome them to the world of today's press.

8592

CSO: 4504/73

BRIEFS

BAN ON FOREIGN CURRENCY DEALING--Lawyers for the Palestine Bank are preparing the necessary documents to lodge a case in the Supreme Court against the military government and its representative, the supervisor of banks in the Bank of Israel in Jerusalem because the Palestine Bank has been barred from dealing in foreign currency in which it used to deal before the occupation. An official source in the Palestine Bank said that the military government and its representatives had violated the agreement signed between them and the bank administration which provides for the bank to return to its normal operation. He also stated that this discriminatory treatment between the Palestine Bank and Israeli banks that do deal in foreign currencies is aimed at paralyzing the bank's operation. It should be noted that this unusual treatment of this national institution comes at a time when the minister of defense and Israeli officials are publicizing improved treatment of the people in the occupied areas. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Aug 81 p 5] 8389

DISPOSSESSING NEGEV ARABS--The Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV stated yesterday that Israeli authorities had begun to use another approach in their constant attempts to remove the Negev Arabs from their land. The newspaper explained that the Israeli authorities had begun to install new headmen over a number of tribes in the Tel al-Milh area to facilitate the removal of the inhabitants from their land. It should be pointed out that the authorities have employed a number of repressive approaches recently against the Negev Arabs, including firing shots and killing some of them and destroying their tents and homes with bulldozers. The authorities have also seized their livestock and prevented them from reaching wells and their farm land in an attempt to dispossess them. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Sep 81 p 6] 8389

WEST BANK STUDENT ENROLLMENT--Official statistics show that there is a total number of 280,000 students in schools of the occupied West Bank, as compared with 260,000 during the past school year. The same figures show a total of 9,271 teachers in the West Bank schools. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Sep 81 p 5] 8389

HALHUL FACING BUDGET CRISIS--Hijazi Mudiya, acting mayor of Halhul, stated that the municipality of Halhul had received a notice to pay 69,000 shekels for water for a 4-month period, noting that the town has been suffering from a severe water shortage for a long time. Mudiya also stressed that the town has been unable to pay employees salaries and if the Israeli authorities continue to bar bringing funds from abroad, the municipality itself in the very near future will find itself unable to provide its services to the people and will stop projects essential to the town. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Sep 81 p 2] 8389

NEGEV ARABS OPPOSE AIRFIELD--The Negev Arabs last week defied the Israeli bulldozers working to level the military airfield in the Negev which is constructed on land expropriated from the Negev Arabs. The people there drove off the Israeli machinery working on the airfield with rocks. It should be noted that the Israeli authorities had expropriated 85,000 dunums of Arab land in the Negev to build this airfield. The Negev Arab owners of this land had refused any settlement with the authorities who had offered them compensation and a move to another place having built 'Aro'er and to move them there. Sulayman al-Nasasirah, headman of the 'Arab al-Nasasirah tribe, told the Israeli newspaper HA-ARETZ, "We will not be removed from our land, even by force and even if this leads to war. No one can remove us from our land except over our dead bodies." It should be noted that this is not the first time the Negev Arabs have defied the Israeli bulldozers and machinery working on their land. Since work started on the airfield, the Negev Arabs have waylaid the Israeli authorities and have blocked the Israeli bulldozers, hindered their work and pelted them with rocks. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Aug 81 p 2]

CSO: 4304/174

GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES REVIEWED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic Vol 11, 10 Aug 81 pp 26-27

[Article: "Morocco: New Organization for the Parliamentary Majority; Party To Play the Role of the Opposition Established"]

[Text] In the third week of July 1981 an official announcement was made establishing a new party in Morocco called the Democratic Liberal party. The announcement of this party was preceded by a significant number of the parliamentary majority splitting from this parliamentary majority and establishing a new party that opposed the parent majority party, the National Liberal Grouping, and attacked it verbally throughout the recent session of parliament. Last Thursday, April 16 it went beyond that to an event which the newspaper of the National Rally of Independents [RNI] described as "an attack on the speaker of parliament and an invitation to urgent deliberations to confront the dangerous situation." It would not be an exaggeration then to describe the circumstances of the birth of the new party in terms of a Ceasarean section since the question that comes to mind [now] is this: What are the reasons for this split? Accordingly, who wanted to impose this split?

The new separatist movement included not only parliament and its existing majority in circumstances that were very delicate, but it also included the government organization as well as members of government. There were those who stayed with the RNI, and there were those who joined the new party even though membership in the government of Prime Minister Maati Bouabid is formed on the basis of limited and specific political standards, just as the parliamentary majority is formed on the same standards. If seven other deputies were to join the new party, the Istiqlal party would have parliamentary majority and would then have the right to aspire to the duties of prime minister. This is what the Istiqlal party is publicly calling for now in its capacity as the party with the majority. The number of its members approaches that of the former majority after the split.

Ever since the duties of prime minister were assigned in the winter of 1979 to neutral Matti Bouabid instead of to majority leader Ahmed Osman, questions about the reasons that led to keeping the duties of prime minister

away from the majority leader have not ceased. These duties were assigned to Maati Bouabid who does not have a single voice in parliament.

The removal of Ahmed Osman was soon accompanied by other actions [designed] to do away with this uncoordinated majority. The party's dynamo, Abdessalam Zenined was removed: he had hardly settled in his position as minister of tourism for a few months before he was appointed ambassador to Baghdad. He thus lost his position as parliamentary representative of the Ouezzane district. His party, the majority party, lost one voice in his team; that voice was won by the Instiqlal party which obtained representation of the Ouezzane district.

It may soon occur to one that the justifications for a split within a party or a semi party would be based on an ideological difference or a doctrinal choice of leaning more toward the right or more toward the left. However, the reasons and the causes for the split of the Moroccan majority are almost non-existent. Even the equality in the cultural, social or political standard of both parties lingered.

Those from the old group who remained in the government--until an anticipated new change takes place--were Reghai, the minister of finance; Ghissassi, the minister of agriculture; Gharnit, the minister of social affairs; Bencheich, minister of planning; and Ramzi, minister of religious endowments. Members of the separatist party who remained in the government were Arsalane El Jadidi, minister of labor; Moussa Saadi, minister of power; and Khali Hanna Ould Rachid, minister of desert affairs. Whereas the speaker of the parliament, Dey Ould Sidi Baba stayed with the first party, the general manager of the largest government bank for development, Abdelkadir Bensliman remained with the new party.

However, Ahmed Alaoui, minister of tourism, who is distinguished by the fact that he is the person closest to the political indicator, assumed a position of neutrality and continued to publish news of both parties in his newspapers.

Sixty deputies stayed with Osman's first party, whereas 44 deputies split [and went] with the new party.

It was thus not possible to draw more than a very slight distinction between those and the others, a distinction which members of the new party were trying to attribute to themselves: this was the closeness of their lords to the Bedouins. They called themselves the party of Arabism, that is, the party of the Bedouins. But those who are close to Ahmed Osman, president of the party, which is the subject of discussion, do not hide the fact that behind the contrived events there were strong trends trying to use the new party as a tool to justify increasing the chances for a future government that would be free from the pressure of the numerous figures in the cabinet who are on the side of Ahmed Osman. In fact, those who sympathize with the former prime minister do not hide the bitter fact that the new party is closer to the centers of influence and the new centers of power.

At any rate these possibilities will not be off the mark, but it is possible that another more affirmative possibility can be added. Because of its class makeup the new party may be qualified to play the role of the alternative opposition party instead of the Socialist Union party [USFP] in case the latter withdraws from the current session of parliament and becomes illegal, in accordance with what was stated in the press conference that was convened by King Hasan II early last June. It will be natural then for parliament to continue [its business] for 2 additional years without a Socialist Union--in accordance with the constitutional amendment that stipulates this extension--but with the new opposition of the Liberal Democratic party. The ranks of that party suffer no lack of senior opposition experts and veterans of the ranks of old opposition parties, such as Arsalane El Jadidi, who was at some time a fighter in the ranks of the Moroccan Labor Federation and Abdelhamid Qasimi, who was at one time a fighter in the ranks of the National Union of Popular Forces [UNFP]. The same possibilities go even further, forecasting that some opposition leaders in the union, who are being pointed out, will dissociate themselves from the Socialist Union to strengthen the ranks of the liberal democrats, whether those play the role of the opposition or enter [the scene] to assume power in place of Osman's group.

This is the ultimate goal!

But the fact that the majority party split into two must be placed in the proper perspective of the inescapable destiny that had to be attained.

In addition to the struggles for power there are the successful maneuvers by the intelligent opposition in the union for which the majority had no other choice. The opposition of the union is dynamic, and the majority must try to outstrip it in its actions despite its lack of dynamic factors on the public opinion level. The choices of the majority are like the tunes of the folk singer.

Thus the characteristics of political action in Morocco which are marked by freedom in establishing parties and publishing--except for [actions that] infringe upon public security--still allow any political organization to pursue its rights to hurt its adversaries and to plant political bombs in the structures of other parties.

Members of the Socialist Union toasted the victory they achieved in the process of blowing up the majority party, the NRI. The time bomb that realized the Socialist Union's objective was a news report published by their newspaper, AL-MUHARRIR on 26 January 1981. The report was about a question Moroccan public opinion called the Shumi question in which union members made a charge against a deputy in the majority [party]. Despite the fact that the majority group met at the invitation of Deputy Abdelhamid Qasimi and threatened to file suit against the reporter for libel and for publishing false news, most of the majority did not agree with filing the suit. This made the suspicion turn to certainty, and thus this article was the straw that broke the back of the majority.

AGREEMENT WITH PRC EMPHASIZES HEALTH, CULTURAL INTERCHANGE

Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 17 Aug 81 p 1

[Article: "Signing of Agreement Between the Sultanate and China on Cultural and Health Affairs and Information Exchange"]

[Text] There was a ceremony the evening of the day before yesterday in Peking for signing an agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and China on cultural and health affairs and information exchange. This agreement, which comprises 10 articles, will open new horizons for cooperation between Oman and China in the areas of culture, instruction, science, health, athletics, publishing, information and agriculture.

This agreement is to be viewed as a turning point in the course of the existing friendship between the Omani and Chinese governments.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Sultanate by H.E. Ambassador Ibrahim al-Subhi, the ambassador of the Sultanate accredited to Peking, and for the Chinese by Huang Zhen, Chinese Minister of Culture.

During the signing ceremony, the Chinese minister praised the wise leadership of H.M. Sultan Qabus, saying that His Majesty plays an important role in that area. He expressed his best wishes for the success of the Omani people under the rational leadership of His Majesty.

The Chinese minister expressed his conviction that relations between the two countries would develop although it has been only a short time since diplomatic relations between Oman and China were established.

The signing ceremony, which was held in the Great Hall of the People in Peking, was attended by representatives of the appropriate Chinese authorities and the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the Chinese ambassador accredited to Oman and members of the Omani embassy in Peking.

8389

CSO: 4304/141

PROGRAMS TO COMBAT TEEN-AGE DELINQUENCY DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 663, 14 Aug 81 pp 56-59

[Article by 'Abdallah al-Babitin: "A Journey Into the Minds and Hearts of Those With Unformed Souls"]

[Text] The heroes of this report are young children and youths in their adolescence. These groups represent some of the people under detention at the Social Supervision Home.

All of them have unformed minds and are in need of treatment rather than punishment. They are not criminals, but they are perhaps sick individuals who suffer from a disturbance of their social and psychological equilibrium caused by idleness, emotional deprivation, lack of school care, and parental neglect, as well as poverty and bad companions. These factors--and these alone--are the underlying reasons behind their delinquency, as they freely confess.

In this report, we do not advance a speculative opinion but rather present a living record made among these boys. We present this record in unretouched form with all its spontaneity, candor, and simplicity. Our goal is that the situation of these children who are detained in the Social Supervision Home will be reexamined and that educators and psychologists will take part in defining the size of the problem and determining the means to solve it.

We found, for example, that most of the crimes that brought these adolescents and juveniles to the supervision home were ordinary crimes--perhaps no more than a fight, a traffic accident, or even an incident of theft which occurs spontaneously and is not preplanned. This suggests that these juveniles are basically good individuals who have been pushed into delinquency by accidental circumstances.

When we say this, we are not defending delinquency or crime. But we are defending these youths because we see them as individuals who can be good if given the chance.

However, this article is not an attempt to smooth over the issue. In fact, exactly the opposite is true, because a look at the situation of these juveniles will inevitably lead us to reexamine the Saudi family itself and the individual or social problems that surround it.

The family is the nucleus of society, and proper behaviour and delinquency are the natural results of the conditions of the family and its place in society. For this reason, our universities, institutes, and scientific and social organizations must conduct field studies on the position of the Saudi family in the wake of the changes that have taken place in society during the last quarter century. With such studies, we will be in a position to grasp the issue.

In subsequent articles we can discuss the guidance and information media and their role in safeguarding the mind and thoughts of the citizen. We can also discuss the role of the schools and institutions of learning as the way of preparing youth for the future.

All of these considerations imply that the issue must be dealt with on a scientific basis, even though it may appear simple.

We are convinced that the state has given the citizen all the necessary means for a life of decency and prosperity. It remains for the citizen himself to share some of the responsibility.

At any rate, this report from the supervision home by AL-YAMAMAH provides an opportunity to present an important social issue, namely, the issue of the Saudi family along with all the internal and external factors that affect it.

We stayed overnight in the supervision home where we heard true-life stories of such complexity that it would require a writer to relate them and a psychologist to interpret them.

Our investigation began in the boys' living quarters located south of the home. The younger children are separated from the older ones and both groups are placed under the supervision of specialized personnel. They receive excellent boarding care which is beyond reproach.

We began by talking with several of the boys. The conversation went as follows:

Name: R.M.

[Question] What happened to you?

[Answer] I took a car from al-Ma'dhar and wrecked it. Then the police arrested me and brought me here.

[Question] How long have you been here?

[Answer] One month and 15 days.

[Question] Has your family visited you during this time?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Are you happy in the home?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Why not?

[Answer] Because my family hasn't come to visit me.

[Question] What do you think about the supervision and food in the home?

[Answer] It's good.

[Question] What grade are you in at school?

[Answer] The fourth grade.

[Question] How was your standing at school?

[Answer] Good.

If we analyze the situation of this boy, we find that it was caused by the fact that his parents fell far short in supervising and monitoring their son. Otherwise, how could he have gotten up the nerve to take a car at his age? It would seem that his parents wanted him to end up in this situation since they have not visited him or inquired about him. Can the home give him the affection he lacks if his parents have denied it to him?

The following conversation occurred with another boy:

Name: A.H.

[Question] What brought you here?

[Answer] Stealing money from a company.

[Question] How did it happen?

[Answer] I was with one of my friends and he went into a company and stole some money. They arrested us both.

We talked to another boy who was also sent to the home for stealing.

When I discussed with these two boys the underlying reasons behind their stealing, I found that in one case, the boy's father never gives him any money and in the other, the boy lives with a divorced mother and does not have any one to provide for him.

Parents like these do not care how their children end up because they have never thought about them but have always had their thoughts centered on themselves. How can we prevent boys like these from stealing when parents of this sort are one of the reasons they steal?

The case of Muhammad S. is a very unusual one. He got into a fistfight with his brother and consequently was sent to the home. He says that his father is in al-Qasim and that if he had been at home he would not have come here.

And thus we encounter small problems such as these in which the family or one of its members is an important factor in the delinquency of the boy, who receives no care or attention. For example, a boy named 'Abd-al-Rahman came to the home as a result of a fight with a worker. Another boy came because of disgraceful behaviour. Thus these innocent children become the victims of factors that are primarily family-related. They are sacrificed because their parents have failed to discharge their trust adequately.

In short, delinquency occurs as a result of lack of supervision and neglect on the part of a legal guardian who is concerned only with himself. Had the guardian carried out his responsibility, the delinquency would never have occurred in the first place.

After hearing the conversations with some of the inmates, we shift our attention to our discussions with officials of the home. We talked first with the supervising social worker at the home, Mus'id Isma'il Yusuf.

[Question] What is your function in the home?

[Answer] My job consists basically of receiving the juveniles who come to the home from the police, opening files on them, and conducting individual sociological examinations on them. I monitor the inmates during their stay in the home and receive social reports on each boy's conduct and actions. These reports are submitted by the social supervisor each week or any time something happens. Based on all these reports, intense discussions with the juvenile, and constant observation on my part after the case comes from the police, I prepare a sociological report on the juvenile. This report is then submitted to the juvenile judge so that he can consult it in issuing the final decision, which is the judge's responsibility. The decision issued by the judge can include release, flogging, or both flogging and imprisonment. This depends on the nature of the case.

Next we met with another supervisor by the name of Ibrahim al-'Uthman.

[Question] What is your role?

[Answer] I supervise and monitor the boys, lead them in prayer, and provide guidance for them.

[Question] Are you happy with your work?

[Answer] Yes, thank God.

[Question] Do the boys give you very many problems?

[Answer] Just a few, nothing to amount to anything.

[Question] Haven't they ever hit you?

[Answer] No, none of them has ever attacked me.

[Question] At what hours do you work?

[Answer] Only during the day.

Next we talked with investigator Muhammad al-Sharif:

[Question] What is your role here?

[Answer] I am the connecting link between the police and the home. The juveniles here are sent by the police stations and I attend the interrogations that are conducted with the juveniles inside the home, because they do not go to the police stations.

[Question] Some of the juveniles have been here for long periods of time--as long as 7 months, in some cases--without legal decisions on their cases having been issued. What are the reasons for this?

[Answer] They may have been accomplices with older individuals in other cases and perhaps these cases are in the adult summary court and have not yet been concluded because of continuing investigations. However, decisions are issued on most of the cases within a very short time. For example, traffic cases are decided within 3 days to a week. However, theft cases are relatively drawn out because fingerprints must be taken and matched with those of the juvenile. Decisions are not issued in traffic cases even in those involving assault and battery where the cases are dropped and settled out of court. The police can usually conclude traffic cases without legal decisions.

Finally, we naturally met with the home's director, Muhammad al-Malik. We had the following conversation:

[Question] What are the purposes of the home?

[Answer] The supervision home is one of the homes belonging to the Undersecretariat for Social Affairs. The home was established in 1973. One home has been opened in Jidda and another last year in al-Dammam.

The purpose of the home is to care for males between the ages of 6 and 18 who fall into one of two groups:

--Juveniles who are taken into custody pending investigation or prosecution by the security authorities or the responsible judicial organizations.

--Juveniles who are placed in the home by the decision of the judge.

Another purpose of the home is to study the causes of juvenile problems and recommend appropriate solutions based on practical experience with these problems. This is done in cooperation with other responsible agencies.

[Question] Is the function of the home limited to certain acts of delinquency for which the juveniles are placed in the home?

[Answer] All infractions and acts of delinquency committed by juveniles in the specified age groups are grounds for placement in the home, whether the infraction is large or small.

[Question] Which acts of delinquency are encountered most frequently among the inmates?

[Answer] Traffic violations represent the largest share of juvenile offenses, followed by theft. It should be noted with regard to the acts of theft that they are minor in nature, such as the theft of tapes, automobile hub caps, a radio or tape recorder, and the like. None of the offenses committed by these juveniles takes place as a result of specific planning or on the instructions of other individuals as occurs in other states. Rather, all of them are spontaneous and random acts that occur because of certain conditions which lead to such thefts.

[Question] What about pills and alcoholic beverages?

[Answer] Incidents involving these things are very rare, and we are thankful for that.

[Question] In your view, what are the causes of the acts of delinquency?

[Answer] There are many causes, which can be summed up in the following points:

1. The lack of emotional gratification on the part of the juvenile due to the dissolution of family ties through divorce or polygamy.
2. A low standard of living--"poverty."
3. Bad companions or delinquent friends with whom the juvenile associates.
4. Idleness, inasmuch as a large number of juveniles leave school and find themselves unemployed without anything to occupy their time. This leads to delinquent behaviour.
5. The lack of sources of recreation and relaxation to help the juvenile occupy his free time. It is evident that the majority of juveniles who enter the home spend their free time in the streets or cafes.
6. The lack of sufficient attention on the part of the school to the formation of the juvenile's personality. The school bears the largest share of the responsibility in conditioning and guiding the youth and preventing delinquency.

[Question] Does the home study the case of the juvenile to find out what led to his delinquency in order to achieve positive results that will prevent a recurrence of delinquent behaviour should one of the causes you mentioned earlier arise?

[Answer] After we find out what compelled the juvenile to commit the crime, we discuss the problem with his legal guardian and help him solve it. We reach agreement with the guardian on a plan of treatment to prevent the juvenile from committing the crime again. In addition, the home also conducts follow-up care

after the juvenile is released so that his connection with the home will not be broken. We have a specialist whose job is to monitor the juvenile after his release from the home. This is called follow-up care.

For example, if the crime is caused by unoccupied spare time, we try to enroll the juvenile in one of the vocational training centers. We then monitor his studies in the center and make sure he continues them until graduation. In this way we can confirm that he is on the right track and reassure ourselves about him.

[Question] What if the problem is caused by the individual's financial circumstances?

[Answer] If his family is poor, we try to find him suitable work commensurate with his age and academic standing. Job opportunities are plentiful, especially since we work with the Ministry of Labor. It is easy for us to find him a job in a private company or in any other organization that will help in solving his problem.

[Question] What system of organization is employed in the detention of these juveniles?

[Answer] There is a specific plan of organization by which the juveniles are divided into two groups. The younger boys are placed in a separate group under the control of special supervisors and specialists. The older boys form another group under the supervision of different specialists. This prevents mixing between the two groups and keeps the groups from influencing each other.

[Question] Is there segregation based on the type of crime committed?

[Answer] Yes. Juveniles detained because of traffic violations form a separate group because their infractions are minor and their detention usually lasts for no more than a week.

[Question] What measures are taken as soon as the juvenile is placed in custody?

[Answer] When the juvenile enters the home, he is given a medical examination by the home's doctor to make sure that he is free from contagious diseases. He is then issued clothing and put into the appropriate group for his age. In addition, the specialized supervisors such as the health director, the athletic director, the technical director, and the supervisor prepare reports on the detainee which are submitted to the social supervisor, who forms them into a single report.

[Question] What are the ages of the majority of these juveniles?

[Answer] The majority of them are between the ages of 12 and 15.

[Question] Do these boys participate in recreational activities?

[Answer] They pursue technical training activities, simple manual tasks, all sorts of athletic games, swimming, television, cards, and motion pictures. We present films which aid the inmates and help in raising their social and religious consciousness.

[Question] What about education?

[Answer] With regard to education, it is difficult to give them specific courses in classrooms similar to the ones they encounter in school because of the differences in the levels and types of instruction among the pupils. The home has pupils from various schools and it is very difficult to open classes for these individuals. However, we have instructors who supervise them while they learn their lessons. The instructor helps them understand and solve the problems they have difficulty with. If a detainee is enrolled in a school, he can continue his studies by learning his lessons under the supervision of these instructors in various subjects, including mathematics, English, Arabic, and so forth. When it comes time for examinations, we make it possible for the boys to take them.

[Question] What about inspirational lectures?

[Answer] The home does conduct various inspirational lectures. The juvenile judge gives a lecture each week, and we also call on learned individuals from time to time to give lectures in addition to the supervisors, who perform a similar role.

[Question] What is the daily schedule of these juveniles?

[Answer] Every day the boys get up at dawn to pray. Next they do athletic exercises. Then they eat breakfast, after which they separate into groups for various activities. Some engage in technical training, some study, and others pursue cultural activities--newsboards, the library.

[Question] It is said that some juveniles are more delinquent and disobedient when they are released from the home as a result of mixing with various groups that influence their future behaviour. What comment do you have about this?

[Answer] This is not true, because the intermixing of the pupils occurs only under the supervision of the directors. Moreover, they are not given any free time to talk to one another. They are always busy and it is very rare for any of them to return to the home after being released. When one of them does return, we have expected him to come back and this is because the guardian fails to cooperate with us. Let's assume that the boy's problem was caused by bad companions with whom he associates and we have advised the guardian to keep his boy away from them but he doesn't listen to this advice. In this case, the boy will definitely become delinquent again and consequently will return to the home.

On the other hand, perhaps the father marries a second wife and loses touch with his children and fails to look after their upbringing or direct and supervise them. In this case, the boy will inevitably commit additional acts of delinquency. Or if the family is not cooperative, we also expect to see the boy commit another crime and be returned to the home. But if the family cooperates with us and goes along with the plan we draw up for them, the juvenile rarely returns to us.

[Question] It is said that each group sleeps in a single room without a supervisor, which could lead to a certain amount of deviation. What is your opinion?

[Answer] This is not true. Each group consists of five individuals in one room and the supervisors are present with them continuously. As I indicated previously, we have three shifts and each shift consists of three supervisors. A social worker oversees these supervisors. Nothing at all can happen because the individuals are under the surveillance of the supervisors. Moreover, the supervisors possess a very high standard of qualification, character, and religious commitment and must be of a certain age. None of the officers is of a young age.

[Question] Are there ever any clear cases of disobedience or outright attacks?

[Answer] A fight sometimes may occur among the boys themselves, but that is all.

[Question] Do any of the boys ever run away?

[Answer] This happened once or twice when we were in a rented house that was not prepared for this purpose. But no one can escape from the present building because it is sealed. In addition, the police also provide surveillance. They patrol the outside of the building and the fence. The supervisors and directors perform this function inside the building.

[Question] How is the principle of reward and punishment applied?

[Answer] If an individual commits an infraction within the home, he will certainly be punished for it.

[Question] What are the established punishments?

[Answer] The punishment varies according to the offense. It could be a reprimand, detention, deprivation, or flogging.

[Question] Are the inmates paid any allowances?

[Answer] No allowances are paid to them. Instead, they are provided with food and seasonal clothing.

[Question] Is there cooperation or are there visits between the home and other related agencies?

[Answer] No, because these boys are detained in accordance with legal decisions and if they were to leave the home this would be considered a violation of these decisions.

[Question] I mean, do the supervisors make visits to schools and agencies which share the goal of consciousness-raising and crime prevention?

[Answer] We visit the schools if former inmates of the home are attending them. This is part of the specialist's role of follow-up monitoring to find out how well the boy is proceeding with his studies, whether or not he has dropped out, and how he is behaving after his release from the home. Is he improving or not improving.

[Question] What is the difference between the home and a prison?

[Answer] The home differs from prison by association, and the quarters consist of large, air-conditioned, well-lighted, and clean rooms equipped with separate beds for five individuals. The lavatories are clean and are continually maintained by workers. I don't know the exact extent of the difference between the home and prison, but what you observe when you visit the living quarters will show you that the place is as much like a regular home as possible in terms of the furniture, air conditioning, lighting, and food.

[Question] What are the visiting periods for the detainees?

[Answer] There are three visiting days a week: Sunday and Tuesday afternoons for women and Thursday afternoon for men.

[Question] Doesn't the home supervise young women who commit certain offenses?

[Answer] There is the Institution for the Care of Young Women which is responsible for placing girls who commit offenses. We have no connection with this institution, but are responsible for boys, only.

[Question] Does the home suffer from any problems?

[Answer] The only problem the home has is a shortage of manpower.

[Question] What are the reasons for this?

[Answer] One reason is the fact that Saudi citizens do not want supervisors' jobs because, as I mentioned previously, they are on three shifts and are not permanent. Saudis will not accept night work at all--especially married men. Thus, we are compelled to contract outside the kingdom and contracting has now become difficult. We must write to the Civil Service Commission and get their approval. This is contrary to the way it was in the past when the ministry did the contracting itself. This means that there are complicated and drawn out procedures involved in contracting which hinder us from filling the shortage we are suffering from.

[Question] How many detainees are there at present?

[Answer] At present there are 79. However, this number is not fixed. Sometimes it goes as high as 130 and sometimes it is less, according to the number of offenses committed.

8591
CSO: 4304/151

TUNISIA

INTERVIEW WITH TAIEB BACCOUCHE

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 223, 16 Aug 81 pp 27-28

[Interview with Taieb Baccouche in Tunis, date not specified: "The Secretary General of the Federation of Tunisian Labor Unions Says, 'Our Position in the Elections Will Definitely Be Distinctive;' Steps for Liberalization To Be Completed by Declaring General Legislative Amnesty' "]

[Text] Since its establishment in 20 January 1946 the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] has been a sensitive indicator in all domestic political equations. During the period of struggle against French colonialism it broke the controlling restraint of narrow social demands and won the political prestige that made it the backbone of the national struggle during the major strikes that it organized in August 1947, in November 1950, in March 1951, in the two general strikes of December 1951 and January 1952 and throughout the years that followed.

In the following period--beginning in 1956--the labor unions became a principal figure in the political balances between the poles of power. The unions experienced struggles and liquidations among their leaders [in incidents] that were related to the developments that were being pursued by the government's policy.

This was the case until the pressure coming from the unions' membership grew and became crystallized into a new political and social awareness in the seventies which contributed to changing the federation of unions to a center attracting various kinds of opposition. The political power made every effort to clip the wings of the unions. Such efforts went as far as creating an alternative union that supported the regime and was called the Tunisian Labor Force. Soon, however, this union disappeared.

The failure that befell this "policy of incentives and terror" forced the former administration of the ruling party to begin implementing the plan for the immediate elimination of the unions. This forced the union leadership which was headed by Habib Achour to proclaim a general strike to defend its existence and its independence.

The strike turned into a medium for expressing disgruntlement. Demonstrations broke out in all the major cities; a large number of people were killed and wounded when the police and the army intervened; and union leaders were arrested.

Then the government arranged a superficial conference during which it installed a new leadership which found itself isolated in an ocean of union rejection until the events of 1980 and the political changes that ensued occurred. Labor union members began to be released in groups, and then a joint committee of the legal leadership and the leadership that supports the government was formed on 3 October 1980 to make preparations for the emergency conference that was held in Gafsa last 29 and 30 April (AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 10 May 1981). At the end of that conference Taieb Baccouche was elected secretary general of the Federation of Labor Unions.

AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI met Baccouche and interviewed him for 2 hours about the union leadership's view of the current situation and its future role inside the country and abroad, especially since the country is on the verge of premature parliamentary elections. The federation's position will influence these elections. The text of the interview follows.

[Question] After the recent conference of the two offices of the UGTT and the Alliance of Employers formed a joint committee to follow up on the settlement of the questions that resulted from the crisis of recent years. Is this a return to the dialogue between the two organizations? [If it is], on what basis is this dialogue being conducted?

[Answer] The recent social crisis that lasted 3 years and actually preceded the events of 26 January 1978 created numerous barriers between the workers' organization and the employers' organization.

The situation became complicated after the events of 25 and 26 [January] as a result of the fact that a few owners of firms were inclined to terminate employees individually and collectively and to practice various forms of vindictiveness and revenge against the workers, especially those who were members of labor unions.

It is not easy to get rid of the vestiges of resentment and malice since this requires one to exercise considerable restraint of his primitive emotions and to make a psychological effort as well to get rid of those emotions and to establish professional relations that are based on dialogue and respect rather than expressions of exploitation on the one hand or resentment on the other.

The meeting that took place between the two organizations took place in that context. Its principal point was to lay down new foundations for a candid dialogue and to look into ways for clearing the social climate and establishing new relations.

[Question] There was a wave of strikes in the capital and in a few major cities after the Gafsa Conference. How do you explain this phenomenon? Is

the settlement of this phenomenon part of the agreement between you and the employers' organization for clearing the social climate?

[Answer] There are numerous reasons for the strikes that occurred recently. Some of them are normal professional reasons that are manifested in old demands to meet some of which an agreement was reached in 1977 or January of 1978. The events [of 25 and 26 January] were used to freeze these demands. It was not curious then that these demands would move workers [again] since they had lost their benefits for years. Other reasons for the strikes are due to a bad habit for which the supervisory power of the previous administration is responsible. This is manifested in not meeting any demand regardless of its legitimacy until after a strike [occurs]. This was what made workers undertake the strike from the outset to gain time, whereas interest would dictate that a strike come as a last resort after all attempts at dialogue fail.

Accordingly, there are also a few psychological reasons for the strikes such as the unconscious reaction to years of oppression and suppression. These are examples of the reasons which are numerous; time is required to change the methods of doing business.

The April 1972 Law

[Question] The proceedings of the meetings of the National Assembly on 10 and 11 January 1978 show that the federation requested a review of the foreign investment law which allows European capitalists to establish industrial organizations in Tunisia. This law is known as the April 1972 Law. Today, most of the strikes are occurring in the firms that have been established in the context of this law. What method do the unions have in mind to deal with this phenomenon?

[Answer] I think that some confusion has occurred regarding the federation's position on the export firms or on those firms in general that come under the framework of the April 1972 Law and of similar laws that came after it. The federation's objection to the laws that created these firms is represented in its dissatisfaction with firms that remain on the periphery of the national economy and do not truly enter into that economy's "circulatory system." There is no interaction between them and the national economy with regard to the use of local primary materials or the transfer of technology, an activity which still remains a fiction. Most of these firms are not bringing about any real transfer of technology. Furthermore, these firms are not diverse since most of them are confined to [the production of] clothing for export. This makes the principal reason for their existence, ultimately, the exploitation of cheap labor, despite the relatively limited employment opportunities they provide.

The federation is intent on keeping the new colonialist mentality out of these firms. It is also very interested in the dignity of male and female workers which is part of [their] human rights as well as national feelings. Some people were wrong in thinking that the federation was trying to expel these firms by harrassing them with strikes. This is what a few proprietors

of these firms are claiming on the basis of possible excesses committed by a few union members. We are now in the process of studying the situation of these firms closely.

No Alternative Program

[Question] Ever since its establishment the federation of unions has had its own economic program. It is known that the Destourian party did not have a clear program when it assumed power and that it adopted the federation's program in the mid fifties and early sixties. Is it possible to talk today about an alternative economic program for whose application the federation of unions is struggling?

[Answer] We do not believe that it is the duty of the federation to come up with an alternative program that would be the basis for the government's full policy. The federation is not a ruling party or an opposition party; it is rather a labor union organization and a social sounding board which, like every labor union organization, has clear objectives to achieve which it contributes to the formulation of the major lines of the economic and social choices. The government and the political parties then have to formulate [these choices] in detailed programs and plans. The federation expresses its opinion on the programs and plans that are presented, and it evaluates the results and the practices on the basis of standards that focus on the actual progress [achieved] in social justice in the comprehensive sense of the term.

[Question] The federation has always had representatives in parliament. Do you intend to take part in the next parliamentary elections? [If so], what will be the form of your participation?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the subject of parliamentary elections will be raised this year and that it will be raised for the first time in a new way that differs from the way it has usually been raised in the past. In general, adjustments will be made in the situations in accordance with the degree of democracy that the government will be prepared to establish and in accordance with the positions of the various opposition movements.

The federation's position on all this will undoubtedly be distinctive by virtue of its nature as a labor union organization that does not behave like a political party or isolate itself from what is taking place on the national scene.

As far as formulating the labor union's position is concerned, the next National Assembly will settle the matter in accordance with what is dictated by the interests of the federation.

[Question] The demand for a general amnesty is being made by all union members at all meetings and gatherings, before and after the Gafsa Conference. What has the new executive office achieved in this area?

[Answer] The demand for a general legislative amnesty is not new for the UGTT. It was among the union's demands in the National Assembly that was convened in January 1978 considering the fact

that it would be a principal factor in clearing the political climate in the country. Since this demand goes beyond amnesty for union members, the union, along with all the democratic forces in the country, will continue to make it.

With regard to union members, particularly those who were victims of the 1978 crisis, we have been able to form a task force, which despite its shortcomings, has been able to suspend the cases against the union members and enable all those who received sentences, except for Brother Habib Achour, to receive a presidential pardon according to which the sentences were repealed. This is what gave labor union officials the right to go back to pursuing labor union activity and to assuming labor union responsibilities.

However, we think it is essential to complete this significant step and enact the general legislative amnesty law for all union members so that the injustice committed against them can be wiped out. This would go beyond repealing the verdicts to repealing what was considered "a crime." After the Gafsa Conference a committee of the union's Executive Office was formed. Its function was to rectify the damages that resulted from this crisis.

[Question] What about Habib Achour?

[Answer] Following a meeting I had with the president recently, I was personally able to get a promise that the restrictions which were placed on Brother Habib Achour would be lifted soon. This may be done on 3 August.

[Question] At first the position of the International League of Free Labor Unions on the new leadership was reserved. Then it changed in the direction of recognizing the leadership and normalizing relations with it. How has the position of the International League changed, and what are the motives for this change?

[Answer] We have been members in the International League of Free Labor Unions for 30 years. However, we do not think that this affiliation allows this or any other organization to set itself up as a guardian over our organization for whose independence we have fought. We do not believe that the International League of Free Labor Unions had any reservations toward us at all. In its official publications this organization considered the revival of this national labor union committee a significant step toward solving the labor union crisis in Tunisia.

However, the absence of the league's representatives from the Gafsa Conference is due to the fact that the league thought there were deep differences between union members and that the presence of its representatives would be embarrassing and would be interpreted as interference in the internal affairs of the union. Therefore, it preferred to await the results of the conference and to honor the will of the conference majority. It was not difficult to find out the truth about new occurrences at the conference

which was open to Tunisian and foreign journalists from beginning to end. In addition, Brother Hamid Jalud, the secretary general of the International Federation of Arab Labor Unions was present; al-Haj 'Ali al-Nafishi, president of the African Labor Union Unity Organization was present; and so were representatives of fraternal labor union organizations such as [those in] Morocco, Algeria and Palestine. All those who attended the conference agreed that it had a rare democratic character. Therefore, the International League of Free Labor Unions assumed the normal posture of honoring the decision of the majority.

On the sidelines of the 1967 International Labor Symposium I had a working meeting in Geneva with Otto Christian, secretary general of the International League of Free Labor Unions and with a number of his aides. A decision was made during that meeting to normalize relations once and for all between the federation of Tunisian labor unions and this organization. Relations had been frozen with the leadership that was installed by force following the events of 1978. A few days ago I attended the business meetings of the regular session of the Executive Authority of the International League of Free Labor Unions in the capital of the Netherlands since the UGTT is one of the three permanent members of this committee, representing the African group in the innermost part of this organization's executive authority.

[Question] What is your position on Morocco's events?

[Answer] We have expressed from the outset our full solidarity with the Moroccan members of the union, and we have called for the release of the leaders who are under arrest and for honoring union liberties. On the Arab scene we have shown full readiness to take part in a special session held by the International Federation of Arab Labor Unions to look into the subject.

8592

CSO: 4504/63

TUNISIA

ROLE OF OPPOSITION EXAMINED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 223, 16 Aug 81 p 26

[Article by Rashid Khashanah: "15 Minutes Brought Back the Communist Party to Public Activity; Harmel Says, 'Mr President, the Party Is Banned;' Bourguiba Says, 'Let's Lift the Ban;' Islamic Movement Threatened by Siege unless Opposition Circumscribes Government's Action"]

[Text] Tunisia has not experienced since 1977 a political summer that was as hot as this one has been. Events followed each other in an unaccustomed fashion: the one party system came to an end; the communist party was issued a permit to return to public activity; all Islamic leaders were arrested, and preparations for their trial were underway; there was a struggle between the government and the left over opening coffee shops and restaurants in the day time during the month of Ramadan; and there were demonstrations against the Club Med because the club openly declared its sympathy with Israel.

But the most remarkable event in all this was that of lifting the ban on the communist party. The year 1981 will remain in the books of Tunisian history as the final year for the one party system after 18 years of absolute control by the ruling Destourian party.

Last 18 July was the turning point that shifted the country from one situation to another. The decision was a surprise that hit everyone unexpectedly. [Consequently] no one believed what he had heard. Even some members of the Political Bureau and some members of the government heard of the news just as any ordinary citizen would have. On that day President Bourguiba met the secretary general of the communist party, Mohamed Harmel, who had come to thank the president for permitting the publication of the newspaper, AL-TARIQ AL-JADID. Mrs Wassila Bourguiba, the president's wife had arranged that meeting after having met Harmel twice herself.

Communist party circles relate that the following conversation took place between President Bourguiba and the communist leader during their meeting which lasted no more than 15 minutes.

"Mr President, the decision authorizing us to publish the newspaper,

AL-TARIQ AL-JADID is a historic and a positive decision. However, it is still inadequate because the communist party has been banned for 18 years from participating in Tunisia's battle. What is keeping us from taking part [in that battle] is the decision which was made in 1963 to ban the party's activity."

"We can lift the ban."

The decision that restored the flow of matters in the pipelines of politics which had rusted after 18 years of inactivity was that simple. The communist party and the other political movements--except for the Marxist Leninists--had receded under the ungenial burden of the one party system. Ever since the mid seventies, however, the communist party has been reconsidering its actions and preparing itself for its return to the scene along with recently created movements such as the MUP [Popular Unity Movement], the MTI [Movement Tendance Islamique], and the MDS [Socialist Democratic Movement].

Now that the one party system has come to an end, there are now in Tunisia two official parties. It was the specific position of the party, compared with the other organizations, that caused the authorization for this party to be issued before others. This was explained by Mohamed Harmel in AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI (No 218). The communist party is not a recently created party applying for a permit to exist. It is a party whose existence goes back to the thirties and whose activity had been suspended by an administrative decision. Therefore, its return to the scene does not depend on the results of the next elections.

After the decision to lift the ban was issued, the communists proceeded to take deliberate steps to confirm it. The first step was that of making preparations for the publication of the weekly newspaper, AL-TARIQ AL-JADID; the first issue is expected to come out in September. The communist party also began to list its supporters and active members so it can open branches in the internal regions. This return of the communist party will have a negative effect on the Marxist Leninist leftist organizations because the communist party began attracting some of their supporters and even the members of their staff since it is giving them the opportunity to work in public. In the context of this reorganization process a few communist circles are discussing the possibility of convening an emergency congress of the communist party which has not held a congress since 1962.

But the question that is being asked often following the return of the communist party to [public] activity is the following: Will the communists take part in the next parliamentary elections after these developments, especially since they had not proclaimed their absolute refusal to participate in the elections in the past?

Mohamed Harmel thinks it more likely that the communist party will participate in the elections with a list of candidates shared with the opposition organizations which agree to run in the elections with the communist party in a united front. The only party that is a candidate for such

participation is the MDS. Both the MUP and the MTI are still refusing [to join forces with the communists].

Arrests

The matter becomes more complex as far as the latter organization is concerned because all its leaders were arrested on 18 July, the day the communist party became legal again. Despite the disparate estimates about the number of persons who were arrested, it is certain that the 25 charter members whose names were announced when the MTI party was established last 6 June have all been arrested, with the exception of three women and the media official in the leadership.

Opposition circles, which condemned the arrests, believe that this campaign is a step backwards which may match the gain reaped by the communist party in the battle for multiple parties. The charges that are being made against the leaders of the MTI, in the context of the preparations for their trial, are: detaining the dean of the College of Sciences last 20 February and "organizing acts of violence." What is being referred to here is that demonstrations which took place in the city of Djerba, south of the capital to call for the expulsion of the French official of the Club Med who toasted Israel in a song during the celebration that was held to celebrate the national day of France. This angered the people, and they formed a large demonstration in which even officials of the ruling party in the city took part. These events led to the expulsion of the French official and the arrest of 20 residents of the city. So far however, the involvement of the MTI in the events has not been established, and no evidence of this has been presented. Other events of less significance have occurred in Ksar Hellal between the police forces and the supporters of the Islamic Movement when Rached Ghanouchi, leader of this movement was getting ready to deliver a sermon in the city's mosque.

These arrests have added another major question on the list of questions that are being asked by observers in Tunisia about future political developments, especially about the participation of opposition parties in the elections. But what is evident in all cases is the fact that the government will set boundaries around the activities of the religious movements to set the stage for their liquidation. In this regard the Political Bureau of the Destourian party did decide to focus its attention on the mosques so as to drive the religious movements away from them and to adopt the question of defending religion so as to pull the rug from under those movements which emerged since the early seventies. Will the trial of the leaders of the MTI become the culmination of this plan, or will the opposition succeed in forcing the government to change its mind about the trial?

8592

CSO: 4504/63

PROS, CONS OF ESTABLISHING LOCAL STOCK EXCHANGE DISCUSSED

Dubai AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15, 16, 17 Aug 81

[Article by 'Ali Lashin: "Has the Time Come to Establish a Stock Exchange in the UAE?"]

[15 Aug 81 p 3]

[Text] There Are Billions of Dirhams Worth of Company Shares Circulating in the Domestic Market Which Require a Focal Point of Accumulation and Investment.

The Central Bank: "We Are Ready to Work Together with the Economy, Chambers of Commerce, and Municipalities."

The System of Selling Through Agents Is Responsible for the Increase in the Phenomenon of Fictitious Companies in the Country!

The world of dealing in stocks and bonds is a world which is enveloped in secrecy and obscurity as far as the great majority of people are concerned. Only a small number of people, who have acquired expertise in this area, understand the secrets of this large and rich field. It was only after bitter experience, during the course of which they made some profits and suffered many losses, that they came to understand the secrets of the game and were then able to make big profits.

The profits, unfortunately, were at the expense of small savers who were seeking a means of making legitimate profit. How can we protect this group of oppressed people from the danger of losing their savings or having their savings frozen in fictitious companies which do not bring any real profit to society by offering it a service or a product which society really needs? Could the solution be the establishment of a stock exchange for stocks and bonds in the UAE for the purpose of organizing one of the country's important investment activities?

'Abd al-Malik al-Humr, director of the Central Bank, has already stated that the Bank is currently studying the possibility of establishing a stock exchange in the UAE.

In the following report you will see the conflicting opinions of those who support and those who oppose this idea. What do specialists in this field say concerning this subject?

We are presenting this report within the framework of a series of several articles, and the following is the first article in the series:

Yusuf 'Abd al-Latif al-Sarkal, member of the board of directors of the Al-Fujayrah Cement Company, welcomes the idea of establishing a stock exchange in the UAE. He emphasized that this would protect shareholders from being exploited by brokers and middlemen because the stock exchange would continually clarify, for all parties concerned, what the [current] stock quotations are.

Kuwait's Experience

He said: "Why do we not benefit from Kuwait's experience in this field? The al-Manakh area there consists mostly of places and offices where stocks are bought and sold. Right next to them you have the stock exchange which enables you to keep track of the level of current prices before going to the offices which sell the stocks to conclude a deal with them."

"Here in the UAE the operation proceeds on the basis of individual judgements. Many people have no means of getting in touch with Kuwait in order to learn the latest stock quotations. Therefore, they are subject to exploitation by the brokers and middlemen who earn enormous profits by playing the role of a parasite."

Mr al-Sarkal went on to say: "Actually, in Sharjah there is an area which is similar to the al-Manakh area in Kuwait. This area in Sharjah is located at the beginning of al-'Urubah Street, where there are a number of offices which deal in stocks. In addition to these offices there is a group of auditors and accountants who engage in the operations of putting the shares up for sale, getting subscriptions for them, and keeping accounts concerning them."

"However, before establishing the stock exchange it is desirable to undertake the task of organizing the procedures for establishing and starting up new companies. The government should supervise this operation, either through the Ministry of Economy and Trade or through the Central Bank so that these procedures will be legal and sound and so that the companies whose formation is being announced will be real companies and not fictitious companies."

Founders and the Sale of Stocks

Mr al-Sarkal explained the reasons for the founders of the companies selling their shares before the legal time period, saying: "Some people buy these shares by taking out a loan from a bank and try to repay it rapidly in order not to pay the large interest payments which may not be covered by the profits expected from owning the shares in the long run."

"Some founders of companies sell the shares because they want to transfer their cash to another investment activity before the legally prescribed one-year period goes by. As we know, the shares remain in the name of the founder [of the company] during this period of time after they are sold, and they are registered in the documentation offices in the Ministry of Justice, in the name of the new owner, only after the expiration of this legal time period."

He went on to say: "This phenomenon cannot be eliminated as long as we have the system of selling [shares] through agents. However, it is possible to lessen the seriousness of the problem by increasing primary liquidities in the markets and by increasing people's awareness of the importance of holding on to their shares so that they can earn reasonably good profits in the future. Naturally the existence of a stock exchange would help to create this awareness among stockholders."

The First Thing Needed Is the Law Concerning Companies

"Before thinking about establishing a stock exchange for securities, precious metals, and other minerals in Dubai or in any of the other Emirates, we need to pass a law concerning the founding of commercial, industrial, and professional companies, and [we need to pass] the remaining parts of the commercial law regulating economic activity in the country."

"If these laws, with their implementing regulations were passed and if they definitely became in effect, then the stock exchange would be one of the pillars of this orderly system."

"Therefore I feel"—and here we are quoting Nasir 'Abd al-Latif, head of the Dubai National Bank—"that the present process of circulation of stocks, in spite of its material benefit, is to be considered unsound and requires that the government intervene in order to regulate it."

Mr 'Abd al-Latif continued explaining his point of view with regard to stocks, saying: "In the absence of laws regulating the processes of putting shares up for subscription, there have been many excesses committed which are not in conformity with justice." "From the time that the subscribers pay the nominal value of the shares to the banks, and until the assignment [of shares] takes place, those in charge of the new companies, which are in the process of being formed, use for their benefit the money which has been collected from the very first day it comes to the bank. They are not supposed to use this money until the assignment [of the shares] takes place because this money is considered to be paid as a deposit to secure the purchase of shares. Thus it is not permissible to use this money, and the money is supposed to be treated as it would be treated when opening a credit account. A letter of credit is opened for a period of 3 months, and the only thing paid for it is the fees for opening the credit account, and they amount to only 0.12 percent. Then we apply to this account the prevailing interest rates in the market except when the amount is actually paid to the source bank."

"This procedure may be followed between the time of subscription for the shares and the time when [the shares] are assigned. But if the owners of the companies, whose shares are being put up for subscription, insist on using the money of the subscribers, then this should be for the benefit of the subscribers themselves and they should receive the profits. When their money is returned after the assignment [of the shares], it should be returned to them along with the interest so that they are not subjected to exploitation."

The Stock Exchange Is a Monetary Tool

Muhammad al-Hadi, director of the Dubai branch of the Central Bank, began his remarks concerning the stock exchange by saying: "The value of company shares

circulating in the local market at the present time total billions of dirhams. What we need is a focal point where these billions can be accumulated so that they can then be invested and channeled on sound bases. This, of course, can be achieved by means of a stock exchange."

Mr al-Hadi continued his statement concerning the importance of having a stock exchange, saying: "In all of the advanced economies of the world, stock exchangers are considered to be one of the basic foundations of their monetary and financial systems. Whoever owns shares and wishes to have them transformed into liquid assets goes to the stock exchange and this is accomplished immediately."

"If a government wants to withdraw liquid assets from the market, it utilizes the stock exchange to put up government bonds for sale which pay high interest so that the public will buy them. This decreases the volume of demand for goods and services, and thus limits inflation. Thus a stock exchange is considered to be an effective tool for carrying out monetary policy."

"The Central Bank is totally prepared to work together with the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the chambers of commerce, the Association of Banks, the municipal councils, and all parties concerned, and is ready to pave the way for this new financial institution and lend it a helping hand until it reaches safe ground and is recognized in the UAE, throughout the Gulf area, and internationally."

What Is Expected of the Stock Exchange

Mr al-Hadi went on to say: "The stock exchange needs to be set up in a location among the banks and commercial companies. The Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir Square in Dubai is the most appropriate place for this."

"The stock exchange needs to develop itself so that it becomes suitable later on for the circulation of domestic, Gulf, and international stocks. This, of course, means that the stock exchange will have to be staffed with professional personnel possessing a high level of economic and financial knowledge and expertise. It also requires that there be means available for the stock exchange to contact all of the international financial centers in London, Zurich, New York, Tokyo, and other important cities."

"This stock exchange also needs to put out a daily bulletin containing the names, number, and price quotations of stocks which are circulating, and the motto of the stock exchange should be 'Our word can be trusted.'"

Mr al-Hadi drew our attention to one very important point, which is that of opening up the stock exchange to both UAE citizens and to non-UAE citizens. He said that 60 percent of the stock market should be reserved for UAE citizens and that 40 percent should be reserved for non-UAE citizens. He said that the purpose of this is to entice non-UAE citizens to invest their savings inside the UAE so that these savings do not go out of the country.

[Text] First It Is Necessary to Reorganize the Investment Company Chaos.

Why Did the Two Stock Exchange Experiments of the "Private Sector" in Dubai and Sharjah Fail?

The Story of the Company, the Value of Whose Shares Quintupled Before It Began to Operate!

Yesterday we met with three of our citizens who expressed their points of view with regard to the establishment of a stock exchange in the UAE. Two of them welcomed the idea, whereas the third one had his reservations and demanded that, before this step is taken, the necessary laws be passed which would guarantee the success of the stock exchange in case one is created.

Today we continue our discussion of this subject by shedding more light on its various aspects. We will do this by presenting some new opinions expressed by those who have expertise in this field. "In the national financial arena, indicators have appeared which suggest to us the necessity of establishing a stock exchange in the UAE." This statement was made by Rashid ibn Hamid al-Mazru'i, a businessman in Dubai. He went on to say: "One of these indicators could be considered to be the passage of three commercial laws all at once—the law concerning commercial agencies, the law concerning the UAE Petroleum Corporation, and the law concerning the UAE Transportation and Services Corporation. The result of these laws will be the appearance of new corporations whose shares will be put up for sale to our citizens, as has been the case with Emirtel--the Emirates Telecommunications Corporation."

"There is also another trend being promoted by His Highness Shaykh Sultan al-Qasimi, the ruler of Sharjah. He wants the shares, which are owned by the Sharjah government, to be made available to citizens for subscription at their nominal prices which are far less than their actual prices."

Emirtel's Pioneering Experiment

He went on to say: "Emirtel's experiment deserves our attention because it is a pioneering experiment which we hope will be emulated. The government puts the shares of this corporation up for sale, and the corporation guarantees an annual rate of profit of at least 10 percent for each share at a nominal price of up to 100 dirhams per share, whereas the actual value of each share in the market is 1,000 dirhams. We consider this to be obvious assistance given by the government to our citizens and to be a successful means of improving their income levels."

"If we expect this procedure to be applied to all foreign companies and agencies in the country, we would then have an enormous number of shares up for sale in the market. If that happens, it will be necessary to have a stock exchange in order to regulate the process of circulating these shares."

Companies Far from Their Objectives

'Ubayd Muhammad al-Shamisi, a prominent dealer in stocks and bonds in Sharjah, spoke frankly to us and expressed several constructive opinions. He said: "Any given company is established in order to achieve a particular objective. What was achieved by the numerous companies which have been established since 1976? These companies were originally established in order to stimulate economic activity in the country and to overcome the recession which we suffered from during the years 1975-77. Did these companies achieve this objective?"

"Actually this is not the only shortcoming we have seen. There have also been a number of other shortcomings. For example, it has been permitted to establish more than one company at the same time. This has affected our primary liquidities in that they have been withdrawn from the market, frozen, and then invested abroad."

"As an extension of my previous remarks, I would like to say that we find duplication of companies and the establishment of numerous companies in the same field of activity. This means that they end up harming each other's interests and creating a situation involving harmful competition."

"We should also inquire about these companies' economic feasibility. Is the economic feasibility of a company being studied before it is established, or is this whole process being carried out in improvised fashion?"

"And the small investor wants to know who the people are who are in charge of a given company so that he can be reassured concerning his money."

"Will the company avoid fields of activity and investments which are forbidden by Islam?"

"We should have clear answers to these questions regarding any given company before we permit it to be established."

"Let us speak even more openly. Agriculture has been suggested as an alternative, both for the present and for the future, to oil. Geological surveys and tests have proven that the Dubai area contains huge reserves of ground water which, without exaggeration, would be enough to supply the agricultural needs of the whole Gulf area. In Sharjah, the Gulf Agricultural Development Company was established and it was said that some of the objectives of this company were the creation of farms to cover the country's needs in terms of agricultural foodstuffs, the establishment of plants to produce dairy and meat products, raising cattle, and the establishment of a fishing fleet which would operate on the high seas."

"Four years after this company was founded, which of these objectives have been achieved?"

"Unfortunately the results have been very meager."

"Just as agricultural shares were sold in the market, industrial shares have also been put up for sale. The Sharjah Group was founded in order to carry out an industrial plan which was appropriate for the circumstances of the region in terms its small labor force. Those in charge of the company said that the company would set up plants involving intensive capital [investment] and which would be very

advanced in terms of technology. This company also has not achieved any of its objectives."

"Another example of this is the Medical Services Company which is also in Sharjah. Why does this company restrict its activities to that of opening private hospitals? Why does it not specialize in the production of medicines which would be something which is more useful and beneficial to society?"

"There are many other examples of such companies which were originally established to stimulate investment inside the country but which, unfortunately, invest most of their money abroad."

"The natural result is that when the number of national companies increases, with the consequence being an increase in the shares circulating in the market, then it is necessary to have a stock exchange in order to regulate this activity."

The Attempt Made by Dubai and Sharjah

Habib Kawkar, head of the investment office in the Bank of Oman, feels that it is necessary to have a stock exchange in order to complete the foundations of the country's financial apparatus, and that by means of such a stock exchange it would be possible to transform shares into primary liquidities at any given time. He said: "An attempt was made years ago to establish a stock exchange for minerals and securities in Dubai, and the idea was actually carried out. The stock exchange was active for only 6 months, then it had to stop its operations because it lacked legal backing and support on the part of the government. Why do we not try once more to do this after dealing with these shortcomings?"

Sharjah's Attempt and Individualism

The story of Sharjah's attempt is told to us by Jawdat al-Barghuthi, head of the shares department in the UAE Commercial Projects Company. He says: "'Abd al-Rahman Bu Khatir, head of the Gulf Financial Center, became very enthusiastic about the idea of establishing a stock exchange in Sharjah. He created a headquarters for the stock exchange at the beginning of the 1980's and provided it with 6 telex lines as well as a number of telephone lines in order to facilitate contact with all areas of the world."

"However, the idea did not get anywhere, and the location intended to be the headquarters of the stock exchange was given over to the Sharjah Cement Company which wanted to expand its headquarters. My belief is that this failure was due to the fact that this step was taken as an individual initiative."

"The lack of a stock exchange in the UAE has tied local commerce in stocks and bonds to Kuwait. Opening prices are set at 9 am in Kuwait, within an hour the prevailing prices become apparent, and at 12 pm the closing prices are known."

"Among the approximately 30 Gulf companies whose shares circulate in the markets, the shares of approximately 15 of them are noticeably active. In fact, the nominal value of a share of one of these companies which was in circulation increased five-fold even though the company was still in the process of being formed!

We know that this is due to speculation and we also know who is benefitting from all of this."

He pointed out some of the excesses which take place in the field of dealing in stocks and bonds, saying: "We notice the establishment of numerous companies, at close time intervals, which engage in similar fields of activity. Before the subscription period for one of the companies ends, in the same emirate another new company puts up its shares for subscription."

"Right now in the country we have seven cement companies existing at the same time. What logic is there in this? Does this not indicate a lack of industrial coordination not only on the national domestic level, but also on the pan-Arab level?"

"There is something else which should be remarked upon. Current civil law prohibits the founders of companies from disposing of the shares of new companies before 1 year has gone by after the subscription date or the publication of the first budget-- whichever is the shorter period. But the founders of the company, in order to get around this legal clause, have invented the system of selling through agents. This way they can sell their shares as soon as their price doubles in the markets, and the negative effects of this practice are boundless."

"Therefore, it is necessary for the government to intervene to deal with these shortcomings. This cannot take place unless there is a stock exchange by means of which actions of this sort can be monitored. Also required is the existence of a law which would regulate all of these matters and would stipulate that any action concerning the disposal of stocks which takes place outside of the stock exchange would be considered unauthorized."

[17 Aug 81 p 3]

[Text] The Fictitious Investment Companies Are Responsible for the Loss of Primary Liquidities in the Market.

One Bank Earned 15 Million Dirhams Merely by Serving As an Agent for Subscriptions for a New Company!

One Group of Employees Is in Favor of Postponing the Stock Exchange Until the Conditions for Its Success Are Present, and Another Group Favors Establishing It Immediately in Order to Stop the Fleecing!

The purpose of this report has been to call for the establishment of a stock exchange in the UAE. But it so happens that we have touched upon another subject, which is that of the creation and establishment of new companies and the tricks and forms of exploitation involved in them which it has now become necessary to counteract--now that they have become known and revealed to everyone.

The first two articles in this series have contributed toward explaining many aspects of this subject. In this last article in the series we will hear some remarks made by a group of experts and specialists who are very knowledgeable in this field. They will confirm what the others have already said, and will add some new remarks which are of considerable importance.

Sayf al-Gharir, head of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, said that it really is a cause for astonishment when we see in the papers every day announcements concerning the formation of new companies--at close time intervals--which are in similar fields of [economic] activity, without the existence of any controls which regulate this process.

He inquired about the role of the federal government in regulating these matters, saying: "The establishment of any new national company should be subject to the authority of our federal government, which should decide on the soundness of establishing this company and determine whether or not the people of the UAE really need the product or service which this company would be offering." "If matters proceed on the basis of this premise, then we will have shares belonging to actual companies and not to fictitious companies as is presently the case."

"Then the stock exchange will be necessary because it will become the mirror which will reflect the financial status of each company in terms of its strength and weakness. When that day comes, we will have the best possible honest competition between companies which will attempt to prove their financial and administrative capabilities."

The Largest Stock Exchanges in the World

When an expert in finance and investment talks about an important subject such as the stock exchange, what he says is of great value. This is something that we were able to sense when we heard the remarks of 'Arif al-Badayri, the financial expert in the Dubai branch of the Merrill Lynch Company which engages in financial speculation and investment.

Mr al-Badayri began by saying: "First of all, we should define what a stock exchange is."

"A stock exchange is actually nothing more than a meeting place for a group of people who specialize in a given field of activity, whether this field is that of precious minerals, other products, stocks, securities, or anything else connected with these things." "As we know, the largest grain exchange in the world is in Chicago. The largest center for grain distribution is in Rotterdam. The largest exchanges which deal in gold are located in London and in Zurich. The largest tin exchange is in Kuala Lumpur. And the largest exchange for stocks and deferred contractual arrangements has its headquarters in New York."

Factors of Success for the Stock Exchange

"But for the stock exchange to be successful and to accomplish its tasks in the best possible manner, several conditions need to be met. The first of these conditions is that people must have a high degree of awareness concerning the importance of the stock exchange, and a large number of people must conduct business there."

"The second necessary condition is that there be a large number of national corporations which circulate their stocks in the markets."

"However, these companies must be subject to sound financial regulations and laws

concerning the issuing and publication of periodical information concerning their financial status, commercial activities, profits and losses, and other basic information."

"As we know, sound financial principles do not permit the stocks of any company to be put up for sale in the stock exchange until that company has published its first general budgetary report." "But if the company is in the stage of being established, its shares should be put up only for subscription and not for circulation in the stock exchange. This is one of the advantages of having a stock exchange, because any transactions which take place outside of the stock exchange are considered unauthorized."

Stages of Establishing Corporations

Mr al-Badayri went on to say: "Before we speak about the present day disparities which exist, let us define the stages of establishing a corporation."

"Let us assume that some people have agreed among themselves to establish a corporation in order to undertake some given activity in the sector of production or services. The first thing that has to be determined is the amount of capital, and then the capital has to be divided up into equal parts which are then called 'shares.' Then the nominal value of each share has to be determined."

"The next stage is that of determining the number of shares which the founders of the corporation will be subscribing for and the number of shares which will be put up for public subscription." "The next step is to determine the subscription period. This is something which is very important, as we will presently see." "After the expiration of the subscription period, there comes the stage of assigning [the shares]. During this stage the ultimate number of shares which can be granted to each subscriber is determined."

Strange Present-Day Disparities

"Can you imagine the following happening? The nominal value of each share of a company is 1 dirham, and 2 months after the company is established, the value of each share in the market goes up to 5 dirhams, with the result being that the founders of the company earn huge profits. Each of the founders has earned 4 times the amount that he put into the company even before the company has initiated any activity."

"Most such people who establish companies are from abroad and they are undermining the economy of the country in order to serve their own personal interests. They are draining liquidity from the market without contributing any significant economy activity." "And there is another new company, the demand for whose shares put up for subscription was so great that it covered [the original cost of] these shares 400-fold."

"What does all of this mean? The first logical result is that the values of the shares in the market will sharply increase over their nominal values. Of course, those who benefit from this are the people who establish the companies."

"The second result is the accumulation of a large amount of capital during the subscription period, and this capital is invested for the benefit of the company's founders until the process of assigning the shares begins!"

"Enormous profits are earned by means of this method. In fact, one local bank earned 15 billion dirhams simply because it served as an agent for the subscription [for shares] of one of the new companies. And these 15 billion dirhams were only part of the total profit earned in this case."

A Limited Number of Business Transactions Are Taking Place

Ibrahim Ramadan, who is in charge of investments made by the Al-Futtaim Group of Companies, is in favor of postponing the stock exchange. He says: "The [limited] number of corporations, and consequently [limited] volume of shares circulating in the market in the country at the present time, do not justify the establishment of a stock exchange in the UAE because only a limited number of business transactions are taking place." He assures us: "The great liquid assets of the Al-Futtaim Group of Companies are being invested in the purchase and sale of both domestic and international stocks. This, of course, is taking place through agents."

Mr Ramadan then explains the idea of investing in stocks, saying: "The value of the shares of successful companies increases with time. Thus the objective of purchasing shares is to earn a rate of profit which is greater than the rate of profit earned from fixed deposits in banks. In other words, these shares constitute financial assets which steadily increase in value."

Incorporation of the Foreign Companies in the UAE

Mr Ramadan goes on to say: "When all of the foreign companies in the country have been transformed into corporations, the establishment of a stock exchange will be necessary. The existence of the stock exchange, and everything connected with it, will be very beneficial for investors. It will provide an overall and accurate idea of all of the companies, it will take over the operation of registering the sale and purchase of stocks as well as all other transactions concerning stocks, and it will furnish the actual prices of the shares without any fraud or swindling entering into the picture."

Factors of Success for the Stock Exchange

But how can the stock exchange succeed? Mr Ramadan provides an answer to this question: "The government should pass a law concerning the stock exchange, and the stock exchange should be steered by the government. It should be a condition that the shares of any company should not be registered in the stock exchange until 3 years have gone by since the establishment of the company and after it has begun its [economic] activities as a company. This is because if their shares are allowed to circulate before this time period goes by, the interests of small savers and investors will be harmed. Their savings will be squandered and will flow into the pockets of the large-scale investors without any actual increase being achieved in the country's total production and services."

Right Now It Is Better to Postpone It

'Abd al-Qadir Ijaz, of the Arab General Investments Company "Shu'a'," has a different opinion concerning this matter. He says: "We would welcome a domestic stock exchange in order to curtail the role of foreign stock exchanges in terms of their influence over our financial markets. There is a big difference between being subordinated to these stock exchanges and being exactly like them. No doubt we would be influenced by them, but we could also exercise influence over them at the same time."

"However, I feel that we should postpone the establishment of a stock exchange until the Central Bank stands on firm ground and becomes familiar with all of the forces which control and direct the country's cash reserves. When that happens, we can then establish the stock exchange as one of these forces."

"Postponement of the stock exchange at the present time is also necessary until a study has been made of the markets of the region. We do not know if there is justification for establishing a new stock exchange in addition to the stock exchanges which already exist at the present time in both Bahrain and Kuwait."

"We need to conduct such a study here in order to guarantee the success of our stock exchange in case it is established."

Each Company Is Considered a Stock Exchange

Muhammad Sulayman is in charge of the shares department of the company called the Gulf Financial Center. This company specializes in dealing in domestic and international stocks as well as in precious minerals, and is located in Sharjah. He says: "All of us are wholeheartedly in favor of the idea of establishing the stock exchange. However, in order for the stock exchange to be a success we need to have the government pass a law concerning its establishment and concerning regulation of its activity."

"The stock exchange will also need to have a large number of qualified professional employees and experts in stock exchange matters, and they will require the services of a group of administrators. All of these people will need to have a spacious and neat headquarters area which will be provided with the most modern communications equipment."

"If this takes place, then we will no longer have the chaos which presently characterizes our commerce in stocks. At the present time each company which deals in buying and selling stocks considers itself to be a [type of] stock exchange which exists in its own right."

Periods of Recession and Periods of Increased Activity

Mr Sulayman characterized the periods of recession and periods of increased activity in the stock market, saying: "There is no doubt that feasts, holidays, and summer months are periods of slow activity in the field of commerce in stocks."

"On the other hand, we find the period between October and April to be a period of

considerable activity in the circulation of stocks. This is particularly the case right after the companies publish their [annual] budgets and after they hold their [annual] general meetings when information is given concerning the profits and percentage of each share. Even before these profits are announced, rumors circulate which exaggerate the profits. When such rumors circulate concerning these profits, this causes the market value of the shares of these companies to increase."

The Stock Exchange Means Protection for Investors

"The fact that there is a large number of corporations in our country at the present time has made it necessary to establish a stock exchange in the UAE so that economic activity in the country may increase and so that the buyers and sellers of stocks can meet locally and not have to go to a neighboring Gulf country."

These words were said by Tariq Barakat, who is in charge of the shares department of the Gulf Medical Projects Company in Sharjah, at the beginning of our conversation with him.

He went on to say: "Those people who currently want to deal in stocks run the risk of being fleeced and sometimes are the victims of fraud and of being misled. The establishment of a stock exchange is necessary in order to eliminate these excesses and in order to protect investors."

9468

CSO: 4304/130

CENTRAL BANK ISSUES FIGURES FOR EXPECTED OIL REVENUES

Dubai AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Aug 81 p 2

[Article: "Oil Revenues Expected to Fall Off by 6.3 Billion Dirhams From Last Year"]

[Text] Economic statistics issued by the Central Bank have forecast that the oil income of the state will exceed 65.8 billion dirhams, or \$18 billion, by the end of the year.

This figure is 6.3 billion dirhams under the oil income for last year, which was 72.1 billion dirhams.

This reduction is due to a decrease in the UAE's production from about 1.7 million barrels per day to the current level of around 1.5 million barrels per day because of the glut in the world oil market and a desire to slow the depletion of diminishing oil resources and conserve them for future generations.

The value of oil exports rose during 1980 by 65 percent over the 1979 figure of 49 billion dirhams.

Bank sources indicated that \$10 billion of the income is expected to be spent on import operations during the current year. This is because of continued large increases in imports, which have risen by 21 percent since last year with a jump from 26.5 to 33 billion dirhams.

These sources predicted that imports for the current year would rise by 10 percent allowing for the world inflation rate, which varies between 12 and 15 percent.

The bank sources stated that the current year is characterized by the application of a balanced government policy aimed at ensuring a resumption of growth while at the same time skirting the problems of inflation and labor force expansion. In this connection, the sources pointed out that the difference between oil revenues and the expected cost of importation operations will be allocated for investment in domestic economic sectors.

In a related area, the per capita share of the UAE's national income was 95,000 dirhams in 1980. This corresponds to \$25,676 per year. The national per capita income is expected to reach 130,000 dirhams by 1985.

These figures were among the economic indicators published in the state's first 5-year plan prepared by the Ministry of Planning. These indicators also revealed that the per capita share of the domestic product reached 107,200 dirhams in 1980.

REGIONAL MARINE STUDIES CENTER, LOCAL FISHERIES PROJECTS CITED

Dubai AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 Sep 81 p 4

[Article by Walid al-'Aridah: "50 Million Dirhams for Marine Resources Project in the Gulf; 4 Million Dirhams for Fish Resources Research in the UAE"]

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries yesterday sent a letter to the secretariat general of the conference of Arab ministers of agriculture of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula urging the member countries of the conference to respond to the ministries proposals and to the study which it had prepared on establishing a regional center for marine resources research. The ministry set 15 September as the final date to receive the responses of the Arab countries in the area of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula concerning that center.

Dr Rif'at Mustafa, resources advisor at the ministry, stated that the ministry had, at the instructions of the conference of Arab agricultural ministers in the countries of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula, prepared the necessary study on establishment of a regional center for animal resources research. Copies were sent to the countries concerned for them to study and express their views so that a start could be made on implementing the project which will serve all area countries in the field of developing and protecting marine wealth, and engaging in scientific experiments on the types of marine life in the waters of the member countries, and on ways to increase their numbers.

The fish resources advisor said that the project which was proposed for the UAE would involve buildings and laboratory facilities as well as a scientific research ship that would cost more than 50 million dirhams, over and above the cost of the buildings and facilities.

Dr Rif'at Mustafa stated that the projects management department in the ministry had earlier this week talked with fish resources management officials about implementation of the project for a regional center for marine research and the positions and anticipated responses of the countries concerned with the project regarding the study that had been prepared in this regard.

During the meeting there was also discussion of the steps needed to implement the project for engaging in agricultural research on forestry for which the ministry appropriated 600,000 dirhams in this year's budget for making a preliminary start on implementing the project on the coastline of Abu Dhabi to establish its usefulness, with it then being possible to extend the experiment to the other coasts of the UAE.

He explained that the goal of this project is to introduce commercially useful types of trees [lumber and lumber by-products] because the successful cultivation of trees on the UAE coastline would serve as protection from erosion and provide a proper environment for the proliferation of various types of marine life, in addition to their importance in feeding marine and land animals and the use of the wood in certain industries.

In this regard, he said that the ministry had submitted a memorandum to the permanent committee on projects requesting permission to begin work on the project in preparation for submitting it to specialized companies before the end of this fiscal year.

Dr Rif'at Mustafa turned to the fish resources research project to be implemented in the UAE, stressing the importance of carrying out this project that is aimed at engaging in research for estimating the commercial reserves of fish in UAE waters as well as possible studies of the factors which affect these fish and of determining age and size at maturity and areas and seasons of plentifulness so that it would be possible to determine the best fishing methods and times for banning fishing so as to protect fish resources and to draft appropriate legislation.

He stated that this project would not be fully completed this year because of lack of funding, estimated at 4 million dirhams. The project will require the ministry to lease a research ship and to attract a number of specialists in fish research. As an alternative, the ministry is making its own efforts to try to use available capabilities to make some studies and surveys of the shallow coastal waters of the UAE.

With regard to the fish breeding project, the fish resources advisor stated that the meeting which had been held recently between projects management officials in the ministry and fish resources management officials had, in addition to the above projects, reviewed the project for fish breeding in the UAE on which work is in its first phase involving research on types of food suitable for freshwater fish, [al-bayyah?] and shrimp with the experiments being run in special pools under controlled conditions.

8389

CSO: 4304/141

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

26 OCT 1981